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County Borough of Blackpool



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1951

By

GEORGE W. MURRAY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer



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MUNICIPAL HEALTH CENTRE,
WHITEGATE DRIVE,
BLACKPOOL.
September, 1952.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Health Committee
and the Related Health Services Committee.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your perusal and consideration my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The report follows the lines laid down by Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 and previous circulars on the subject of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health. Once again, bearing in mind the requirements of the above circulars, I have made the report as abbreviated as possible.

The population of the Borough, as estimated by the Registrar General as at mid-1951, is 146,300. At the date of the census it was 147,131.

Again, I have to record a decrease in the Birth Rate on the previous year, and the rate is now only slightly above pre-war figures. It most certainly does not compare favourably with the rates for other areas. The death rate of 18.3 per thousand population is the highest yet recorded in the borough. The increase over the rate for last year, 15.7, is quite considerable and whilst obviously accounted for by the increase of 344 in the number of deaths, the large decrease in the estimated population is also to some extent responsible. I should imagine that the estimated population for 1950 was too high.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that no cases of diphtheria were recorded during the year. It is the first time this has occurred in Blackpool and should be considered in the light of pre-war experiences in the Borough when positive cases of diphtheria could run into three figures and the resulting deaths into two figures.

Fortunately, this year, there has been no large outbreaks of food poisoning as in 1950. The two small outbreaks, in each case affected three of the four members of a household. The need for care in personal hygiene, in the handling and preparation of food, and in the storage of cooked foods before consumption cannot be stressed too strongly.

There has been a considerable increase in the amount of work undertaken in the Home Nursing Service, reflected more in the increase of visits to patients than in the increased number of patients. Obviously to extend their number of visits the nurses have been obliged to cut down the time they could give to patients previously. There is a limit to such cuts and also to the number of cases a nurse can handle in a normal working day without seriously affecting the quality of the service, and if the demand continues to increase the alternative to expanding the staff is an inadequate service to the public.

You will, no doubt have heard and read of recent advances in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Discussion of treatment is beyond the scope of this report but prevention of the disease is not and I would invite your attention to the excellent report on B.C.G. Vaccination prepared by Dr. F. C. S. Bradbury, the Consultant Chest Physician to the Blackpool & Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

A perusal of the latter part of this report will reveal the extent of the routine functions of the department in connection with environmental health—functions which to a large measure escape the public eye. In this introductory note I cannot mention each individual aspect of the environmental health services but the following parts of the report are of interest—Caravans and Wooden Structures, Rodent Control and Vermin and Insect Disinfestation, Meat Inspection and *Cysticercus Bovis*, and the Manufacture of Ice Cream.

To conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to record my appreciation of your active interest and support for me in maintaining an efficient public health service in Blackpool. I should also like to express my thanks to other officials of the Corporation who have supplied information for inclusion in this report and to the members of my staff whose loyalty and support is essential if the department is to run efficiently.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE W. MURRAY.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**
(as at 31st December, 1951)

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

GEORGE W. MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
and Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Mental Health :

DAVID W. WAUCHOB, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare :

MARY D. BANIM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.R.C.O.G.

Assistant Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer :

BERYL G. PETRIE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

HARRY PRIESTLEY, M.B.E. (a) (b)

Chief Administrative Assistant :

GEORGE E. FIELDING (a)

Superintendent Nursing Officer :

Miss W. BARLOW (c) (e) (f) (g)

Sanitary Staff :

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, J. PICKARD (a) (b) ; District Inspectors, A. E. FITTON (a), E. SMITH (a), W. MOISTER (a), A. DANIEL (a) (b), T. W. LOMAX (a) (b), F. BURGIN (a) (b), E. W. BURROWS (a) (b), E. JACKSON (a) (b), J. PARKINSON (a) (b) ; Meats and Foods Inspectors, H. V. DIXON (a) (b), L. H. SHEPLEY (a) (b) ; Abattoirs Superintendent, W. RILEY (a) (b) ; Pestologist, A. HOWARD.

Health Visitors :

C. HILL (c) (e), D. LEA (c) (e) (f), F. E. AINSWORTH (c) (e) (f), W. WALSH (c) (e) (f), M. E. FLETCHER (c) (e) (f), P. WROE (c) (e) (f), M. GREENWOOD (c) (e) (f), M. RYDER (c) (e) (f) ; Tuberculosis Nurses, M. PARKER (c) (e) (f), D. HARRISON (c) (e) (f), W. WATSON (c) (d) (f) ; Infectious Diseases Nurses, B. McCORMACK (c) (d), M. PARTINGTON (c) (d) (e).

Midwives :

L. HILL (c) (e), G. DIXON (c), E. V. FISHER (c), F. H. C. SAVAGE (e), A. BRINING (c) (e).

Home Nurses :

I. DEWHURST (c), A. MYLES (c), I. HOLLINGWORTH (c) (g), W. EMERY (c), R. E. SCOTT (c), E. E. JOPLING (c) (g), E. M. GARTH (c), E. GREATOREX (c), A. M. LISTER (c) (g), M. ROSSALL (c) (g), A. J. BLAKEMORE (c) (g), M. TIDSWELL (c) (g), M. WHITFIELD (c), R. ELLIOTT (c).

Mental Health Staff :

Duly Authorised Officers, D. TAYLOR, Vacancy ; Mental Health Worker, Miss E. M. DASH ; Supervisor, Occupation Centre, Mrs. L. V. HIGHAM ; Assistant Supervisor, Mrs. M. G. GRIFFITHS.

Administrative and Clerical Staff :

Senior Statistical Clerk, D. H. TAYLOR, A.C.C.S.; Senior Clerks, R. PRYAR, H. R. DOWLING, J. RICHARDSON ; Secretary to M.O.H., Miss N. BROWN ; eight male clerks, fifteen female clerks and telephonist.

Domestic Help Supervisor :

Mrs. H. McCLELLAN

Physiotherapists :

Mrs. B. CHESTER, C.S.P. and Miss J. KELSALL, C.S.P.

Radiographer :

Mrs. M. EASTER (c) (d)

Public Analyst (Part-time) :

T. R. HODGSON, M.A., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

-
- (a) Holders of Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute or Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
 - (b) Holders of Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Other Foods.
 - (c) General Trained.
 - (d) Fever Trained.
 - (e) Central Midwives' Board Certificate.
 - (f) Health Visitors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
 - (g) Trained in District Nursing by Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

GENERAL STATISTICS, VITAL STATISTICS, INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (exclusive of foreshore) ...	...	...	...	...	...	8,512 acres
Area of foreshore and Crown lands ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,068 acres
Population (Census—1951) ...	...	...	...	...	...	147,131
Population (Registrar General's Estimate—mid-year) ...	...	...	...	...	...	146,300
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	44,658
Number of empty houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	298
Rateable value of the Borough ...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,834,182
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	£7,350

VITAL STATISTICS

		Male	Female	Total
Live Births :	Legitimate ...	778	728	1506
	Illegitimate ...	56	59	115
	Birth Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population :	11.08		
	Birth Rate (Standardised) per 1,000 ,,	11.30		
Stillbirths :	Legitimate ...	20	22	42
	Illegitimate ...	8	3	11
	Rate per 1,000 births (live and still) :	31.66		
	Rate per 1,000 population :	·36		
Deaths	... ... ... ... ...	1319	1363	2682
	Death Rate (Crude) per 1,000 population :	18.33		
	Death Rate (Standardised) per 1,000 ,,	15.77		
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :			Rate per 1,000 deaths	Rate per 1,000 births (live and still)
(a) Puerperal sepsis ...	...	—	
(b) Other puerperal causes ...	...	2		·1·2
Death Rates of infants under one year of age :				
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births ...	...	...	...	35.16
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	...	...	...	34.53
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	...	...	...	43.48
Death Rate of infants under four weeks of age (per 1,000 live births)				24.68

BIRTHS

The number of live births allocated to Blackpool for the year 1951 was 1,621, giving a birth rate of 11.08 per 1,000 population. Area Comparability Factors have recently been introduced to facilitate the comparison of local birth rates with the rates for England and Wales. The Comparability Factor for Blackpool is 1.02 and the product of this factor and the local crude birth rate gives a standardised birth rate of 11.30.

For comparison I give below the Birth Rates for England and Wales, etc., for the same period :

England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	15.5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	...	...	...	...	17.3
148 Smaller Towns ...	...	...	...	...	16.7
London Administrative County ...	...	...	...	...	17.8

Illegitimate Births. 126 illegitimate births were recorded during the year. The resulting rate of ·86 per 1,000 population or 7.5 per cent. of the total births, bears favourable comparison with pre-war figures.

Stillbirths. The number of stillbirths during 1951 was 53. The resulting rates are 31.66 per 1,000 total births or .36 per 1,000 population. Comparative figures for England and Wales, etc., are set out below.

England and Wales	...	...	...	.36 per 1,000 population
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns			.45	"
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	.38 "
London Administrative County	...	...	...	.37 "

DEATHS

The number of deaths in 1951 allocated to Blackpool is 2,682, giving a crude death rate of 18.33 per 1,000 population. To enable a comparison to be made between the local rate and the rates for England and Wales the local rate is multiplied by an "area comparability factor" which takes into account differences in age and sex distribution. The area comparability factor for Blackpool is .86. The product of this is known as the standardised death rate and should take into consideration the large proportion of elderly persons resident in the Borough. In spite of this the standardised death rate of 15.77 does not compare favourably with the rates for other areas, which are given below :

England and Wales	...	...	...	12.5 per 1,000 population
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns			13.4	"
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	12.5 "
London Administrative County	...	...	...	13.1 "

The percentage of deaths in the various age groups with similar figures for a number of previous years is as follows :

Age	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Under 12 months	4.5	6.3	5.3	4.0	3.1	3.7	4.5	3.5	2.1	2.7	2.1
1 year and under 5 years	1.5	1.3	.9	.5	.8	.9	.6	.2	.2	.4	.5
5 years and under 15 years	35.9	37.3	35.1	36.4	34.1	34.0	32.2	32.3	30.7	33	33
15 years and under 65 years										27.9	28.4
65 years and over	58.1	55.1	58.7	59.1	62.0	61.4	62.7	64.0	67.0	68.7	68.7

The Registrar General has furnished a list of causes of deaths, sub-classified in sex and age groups and this is set out below.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Sex	All ages	AGE AT DEATH							
				0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65-75	75-
ALL CAUSES...	...	M	1319	40	10	5	8	38	394	412	412
		F	1363	17	3	2	2	37	283	414	605
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	M	30	—	—	—	1	3	19	5	2
		F	15	—	—	—	1	6	8	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	M	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Diphtheria	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	M	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
		F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	M	26	—	—	—	—	—	11	9	6
		F	41	—	—	—	—	—	9	16	15
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	M	50	—	—	—	—	3	32	13	2
		F	11	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	M	31	—	—	—	—	—	17	10	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	F	21	—	—	—	—	—	5	12	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	94	—	—	—	—	—	3	37	31	23
	F	101	—	—	—	—	—	5	45	29	22
Leukaemia and aleukacmia	...	M	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Diabetes	...	M	11	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	3
		F	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	M	154	—	—	—	—	—	1	31	67
		F	207	—	—	—	—	—	2	37	80
Coronary disease, angina	...	M	191	—	—	—	—	1	5	73	43
		F	136	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	63
Hypertension with heart disease	...	M	16	—	—	—	—	—	6	9	1
		F	20	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	9
Other heart disease	...	M	235	—	—	—	—	1	3	40	73
		F	346	—	—	1	—	5	37	88	215
Other circulatory disease	...	M	29	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	8
		F	28	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	15
Influenza	...	M	68	—	—	—	—	—	4	20	23
		F	76	—	—	—	—	2	12	27	35
Pneumonia	...	M	29	3	1	—	—	—	8	10	7
		F	43	3	1	—	—	3	8	14	14
Bronchitis	...	M	128	—	—	—	—	—	1	37	43
		F	59	—	—	—	—	—	9	20	30
Other disease of respiratory system	...	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	1
		F	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	M	18	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	2
		F	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	M	5	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	1
		F	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	M	26	—	1	1	—	—	2	5	8
		F	20	—	1	1	—	—	1	8	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	M	22	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	9
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Congenital malformations	...	M	10	8	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
		F	6	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	M	120	25	2	1	2	3	3	23	44
		F	140	10	2	—	1	2	2	27	84
Motor vehicle accidents	...	M	9	—	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
		F	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
All other accidents	...	M	17	3	—	1	1	1	1	3	7
		F	16	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	10
Suicide	...	M	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	4	5
		F	9	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	—
Homicide and operations of war	...	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
		F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis. 49 persons died from tuberculosis during the year—45 from respiratory tuberculosis and 4 from non-respiratory tuberculosis. These represent death rates as follows :

Total Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	·34 per 1,000 population
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	·31	"
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	·03	"

This rate compares favourably with those for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (·37) and London Administrative County (·38), but is somewhat higher than the average for England and Wales (·31) and the rate for the 148 Smaller Towns (·31). The reason why Blackpool's rate should be higher than the average is a combination of two factors—firstly, the winter climate is rather rigorous for persons suffering from chest conditions and secondly, a large number of tuberculous patients remove to Blackpool (during 1951 just over one-quarter of the total cases notified were inward transfers).

Heart Diseases. 944 persons died from various forms of heart diseases. This amounts to 35·2 per cent. of the total deaths or a rate of 6·45 per 1,000 population. Coronary thrombosis accounted for 327 of these deaths. Deaths attributable to this cause appear to be rising during the last few years.

Cancer. There were 381 deaths resulting from malignant neoplasms, leukaemia and aleukaemia. This represents a death rate of 2·6 per 1,000 population. It will be noted from the statistics of previous years, see page 11, that the cancer death rate is gradually rising. Whilst this seems to indicate that there are more cases of cancer, it should be remembered that the expectation of life is now greater and as cancer, in the main, affects old people there are more persons exposed to the risk of the disease.

The rate for England and Wales is 1·96 per 1,000 population.

Influenza. 144 deaths were classified as due to influenza during the year. Of these, 140 occurred in the period 1st January to 24th February, 1951. It will be remembered that at the beginning of the year an epidemic occurred which particularly effected the Merseyside and Tyneside districts and to a lesser extent other parts of the country. As far as Blackpool was concerned the numbers of deaths reached a peak during the third week in January, gradually dwindling to negligible proportions in mid-February. Influenza is not a notifiable disease and I cannot make any comparison between the incidence of the disease and those cases which terminated fatally. Deaths due to influenza during the period week ended 6th January to week ended 10th February, which represents the fatalities occurring from the onset of the epidemic to its decline, amount to approximately 22 per cent. of the total deaths in that period. The following table classifies the deaths according to period and ward :

Week-ended	Bispham	Warbreck	Clarendon	Talbot	Bank Hey	Brunswick	Foxhall	Tyldesley	Alexandra	Victoria	Waterloo	Layton	Marton	Stanley	Total
6th January	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	—	1	—	9
13th January	3	—	2	—	—	—	3	3	2	4	3	—	2	2	23
20th January	4	1	2	1	1	4	3	2	2	3	7	4	4	2	40
27th January	2	3	1	2	—	3	3	2	1	1	3	5	4	4	33
3rd February	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	1	2	15	
10th February	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	1	5	1	—	13
17th February	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	5
24th February	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Total	13	5	6	7	1	7	12	7	7	12	19	22	12	10	140

Infant Mortality. 57 children under the age of twelve months died during the year. The mortality rate is 35·2 per 1,000 registered live births, which compares favourably with the rate of 37·8 for the previous year. It is to be regretted, however, that it does not bear favourable comparison with the rates for other areas :

England and Wales	...	...	...	29·6 per 1,000 live births
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	...	...	33·9	"
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	27·6	"
London Administrative County	...	...	26·4	"

Neo-Natal Mortality. Of the 57 deaths referred to in the preceding paragraph 40 occurred during the first four weeks after birth. The rate is 24·7, a slight improvement on last year's rate of 24·8. It may be said that neo-natal deaths represent the hard core, difficult to eradicate, of the total infantile mortality. Of the forty deaths, three cases where there was lack of attention at or shortly after birth might have been avoided, but with present medical knowledge it is doubtful whether anything could have been done to prevent the remaining thirty-seven deaths. 50 per cent. of the forty deaths were due solely to prematurity, and apart from the three cases previously mentioned the remainder were the result of congenital conditions in many cases associated with prematurity. The various causes of the deaths are as follow :

Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Want of attention at birth (unknown child found on seashore)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shock due to burns of the right leg, right thigh, buttock and scrotum caused through contact with a india rubber hot water bottle placed in his cot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia due to the inhalation of amniotic fluid, want of attention at birth (unknown child found in a street gully grid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebral haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Erythroblastosis foetalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diaphragmatic hernia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gross spina bifida	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Asphyxia pallida	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Patent foramen ovale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
								40

Maternal Mortality. Two maternal deaths were registered during the year. The certified causes of death were :

- (i) Post partum haemorrhage. Pre-eclampsia.
- (ii) Hypostatic pneumonia following operation for ruptured uterus. Utero-placental asphyxia.

The resulting mortality rate is 1·2 per 1,000 total births compared with ·79 for England and Wales.

Comparative Statistics. The following table affords a comparison between the statistics of previous years, so far as they are available, with those of the year under review.

Period or Year	Birth Rates			Death Rates					
	Total (per 1000 popula- tion)	Still- births (per 1000 total births)	Illegiti- mate (per 1000 total births)	Total (per 1000 popula- tion)	Infantile (per 1000 live births)	Neo-Natal (per 1000 live births)	Maternal (per 1000 total births)	Tuber- culosis (per 1000 popula- tion)	Cancer (per 1000 popula- tion)
1886-1890 ...	25.18	—	—	15.34	144.2	—	—	—	—
1891-1895 ...	23.86	—	—	15.32	168.2	—	—	—	—
1896-1900 ...	26.46	—	—	14.41	159.9	—	—	—	.67
1901-1905 ...	22.33	—	1.27	12.92	138.4	—	—	—	.93
1906-1910 ...	17.40	—	1.17	12.15	115.4	—	—	—	.88
1911-1915 ...	15.55	—	1.25	13.96	115.7	—	—	.908	1.29
1916-1920 ...	12.64	—	1.35	14.72	88.8	—	—	.996	1.58
1921-1925 ...	14.99	—	1.26	14.26	73.3	—	6.62	.88	1.73
1926-1930 ...	11.77	—	.93	13.69	66.2	—	5.66	.76	1.77
1931-1935 ...	10.45	53.5	.76	14.16	63.6	—	5.96	.71	2.02
1936 ...	10.8	55.2	.62	15.6	63.0	—	4.6	.63	2.13
1937 ...	10.3	66.9	.64	16.6	57.7	—	3.1	.62	2.22
1938 ...	10.9	42.5	.63	14.6	47.2	—	4.7	.59	2.27
1939 ...	10.6	39.5	.78	14.8	53.5	—	2.6	.58	2.11
1940 ...	9.4	40.4	.69	15.4	53.0	—	7.1	.49	1.74
1941 ...	11.5	36.1	.97	15.5	56.8	—	2.0	.62	2.27
1942 ...	12.7	36.9	1.3	13.8	68.4	—	4.8	.49	1.93
1943 ...	12.5	30.3	1.2	14.8	62.6	—	2.5	.55	2.16
1944 ...	13.8	33.7	1.4	14.3	41.3	—	3.8	.53	2.23
1945 ...	12.5	29.1	1.7	14.8	37.8	—	2.6	.59	2.34
1946 ...	13.7	28.2	1.3	13.8	37.8	—	2.8	.53	2.19
1947 ...	15.2	27.1	.98	14.6	43.4	—	2.1	.53	2.08
1948 ...	13.3	29.0	1.1	13.8	36.3	—	1.9	.47	2.2
1949 ...	12.2	31.4	.9	15.1	25.8	—	1.1	.45	2.4
1950 ...	11.3	28.7	.7	15.7	37.8	24.8	1.7	.3	2.4
1951 ...	11.1	31.7	.9	18.3	35.2	24.7	1.2	.34	2.6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The main feature during 1951 is that no positive cases of diphtheria were recorded—the first year this has occurred in Blackpool. I understand a few towns have had a similar experience in the last year or so and it is an outstanding tribute to the efficacy of immunisation against a disease which, apart from the number of persons affected, invariably claimed a number of deaths until recent years, e.g. in 1939, 177 positive cases of diphtheria were recorded in the Borough and of these 14 died.

The numbers of measles and chickenpox showed a marked increase over the previous year or two but these periodical epidemics are not entirely unexpected. It must be remembered that all the infants born in any year represent a large proportion of the population susceptible to infection, and every few years these diseases spread rapidly among young children particularly those in their first year at school.

The scarlet fever figures are slightly down on last year and the disease, for a number of years, has been extremely mild in type. There were no complications in the cases notified in 1951.

Deaths attributable to infectious diseases are markedly low this year. Two children, both males, aged 21 months and seven years, died from meningococcal septicaemia. In the case of the 21 months old child the diagnosis of meningococcal septicaemia was made after post mortem examination. A visitor from Scotland died as a result of poliomyelitis and as deaths are not transferable between Scotland and England it has been allocated to Blackpool.

Six positive cases of poliomyelitis or polioencephalitis were recorded during 1951 and a few brief details of these cases together with that of the visitor from Scotland are set out below:

Patient	Sex	Age	Remarks
G.G.	Male	31 years	Admitted Victoria Hospital 2.2.51. Developed paresis of right arm and hand. Notified as poliomyelitis on 12.2.51. Maintained satisfactory progress and discharged hospital on 22.3.51. Attended out-patient physiotherapy department until September.
W.L.	Male	16 years	Admitted Victoria Hospital, 1st August 1951. Complained of aching of limbs and headache. Transferred to Isolation Hospital on 4th August, 1951. Diagnosed as polioencephalitis. There was no paresis and patient was discharged home well on 27th August.
J.E.	Male	41 years	Admitted Victoria Hospital 16th August, 1951. Complained of severe frontal headaches for previous four days. Transferred to Isolation Hospital on 18th August, 1951. There was no paralysis and the patient was discharged home well on 8th September.
S.M.P.	Female	17 months	Admitted Isolation Hospital 15th October. Paralysis of left arm and forearm and right facial paralysis. Discharged home well on 9th November.
A.V.B.	Female	20 years	Admitted Victoria Hospital 24th October. Diagnosed as polioencephalitis and transferred to Isolation Hospital on 1st November. Paralysis of both legs, right leg worse than left. After isolation transferred back to Victoria Hospital on 5th December and on 28th December transferred to Moss Side Hospital for continuation of treatment under Orthopaedic Surgeon. Some improvement in left leg.
A.B.	Male	9 months	Admitted Victoria Hospital 22nd October, 1951. Previously had been very active, crawled and could stand supported. On admission could not stand, crawl or kick blankets off bed. Weakness of both legs and of muscles arms and shoulders. On 7th November could sit and stand. Discharged on same day. On 17th November no evidence of anterior poliomyelitis.
W.G.A.	Male	39 years	Admitted to Infectious Diseases Hospital on 23rd July, 1951, from Lytham St. Annes. Visitor from Scotland. Died on 24th July, 1951.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease. The following tables give details of (1) cases of notifiable diseases recorded during the past twelve years, and (2) cases notified during 1951 classified according to age groups.

Disease	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1947	1949	1950	1951
Scarlet Fever	460	435	566	530	219	148	140	269	280	239	224
Whooping Cough	721	325	513	322	280	463	267	331	326	290	245
Diphtheria	179	114	81	56	95	44	44	39	25	9	—
Measles	1388	1646	913	1526	715	883	975	1586	1089	698	1756
Pneumonia	125	186	99	70	23	21	21	23	31	16	43
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	134	114	18	12	4	8	5	13	5	3	1
Poliomyelitis	2	2	—	—	—	2	10	4	6	8	6
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	19	2	—	11	1	53	33	12	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	9	11	7	1	—	2	25	16	4	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	69	55	56	65	34	8	34	33	41	25	26
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	38	2	3	7	17	9	1	3	16	1	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	not recorded	—	—	—	—	44	66	8
Erysipelas	51	34	35	51	44	46	33	38	41	29	21
Chickenpox	1183	406	597	1376	361	523	672	934	333	625	1220
Pemphigus Neonatorum	21	30	28	5	—	—	1	11	—	—	—

DISEASES	Total notified	Ad-mitted to Hospital	AGE PERIODS											
			CASES NOTIFIED											
			Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever...	224	170	—	4	15	18	28	126	21	7	4	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	245	9	17	25	31	36	22	109	3	1	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1756	58	47	124	250	300	297	714	14	6	4	—	—	—
Pneumonia	43	3	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	6	4	14	14
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	4	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Polioencephalitis	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	10	1	—	—	1	2	2	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	26	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	8	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	2
Erysipelas	21	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	10
Chicken Pox	1220	18	19	33	55	65	101	849	70	4	22	2	—	—

Supervision and Care. A Resident Medical Officer has now been appointed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, but by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board I have remained in clinical charge of the hospital. Two Health Visitors of this department have been permanently seconded to Infectious Diseases work and visit the houses of all notified cases, excluding tuberculosis, food poisoning and dysentery, to advise in the isolation of the patient, disinfection, etc. Investigations into cases of food poisoning and dysentery are made by the Food Inspectors, and visits to tuberculous and suspected tuberculous patients are carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors.

FOOD POISONING

Outbreaks. Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year. Details are given in the following table.

Cases Notified	Cases found to have had symptoms	Consumers at risk	Organisms or other agent responsible	Food involved
3	3	Assumed to be four members of household	Salmonella Typhi-murium	Owing to the long period which elapsed between the commencement of illness and the isolation of the organism it was not possible to trace the food. The first case notified, a four months old child, was originally diagnosed as gastro-enteritis.
3	3	Assumed to be four members of household	Salmonella Typhi-murium	Not definitely ascertained. Thought to be either sausages or synthetic cream in sponge cake. Enquiries at places of manufacture of sausages and cream cake failed to reveal anything of significance.

Single cases. There were two single cases of food poisoning in 1952. In one instance, the causative organism was salmonella Thompson but the food involved was not definitely ascertained. Illness commenced whilst staying at a neighbouring town with relatives who were similarly affected. In the other case, the causative organism was salmonella typhi-murium. It was not possible to trace the food involved or where the food had been consumed as illness commenced whilst the affected person was staying at Brussels as part of a Continental holiday which commenced four days previously.

TUBERCULOSIS

Incidence. During the year, 173 cases of tuberculosis were notified comprising 152 respiratory and 21 non-respiratory cases. Of these 116 (104 respiratory and 12 non-respiratory) were primary notifications. The remaining 57 supplementary notifications were made up as follows :

- 8 from Death Returns from local Registrars.
- 2 Posthumous Notifications.
- 46 Transfers from other areas.
- 1 from other sources.

The following table classified the notifications of tuberculosis during the year according to age groups.

Age Periods	Notifications			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	—	—
2 —	1	—	1	—
5 —	2	—	1	—
10 —	1	—	1	—
15 —	3	11	1	1
20 —	8	9	1	4
25 —	23	14	5	—
35 —	21	10	—	1
45 —	17	8	1	—
55 —	10	1	1	—
65 —	10	—	2	—
75 —	3	—	—	1
Totals	99	53	14	7

The following table which summarises the notification register, shows the number of patients at the end of 1950, the fluctuation of patients during the year 1951 and the number remaining at the end.

Type and Sex of cases		Remaining on register 31.12.50	Notific'n's (from all sources)	Died	Recovered	Transferred	Lost Trace	Altered Diagnosis	Remaining on register 31.12.51
Respiratory Tuberculosis	M	276	99	32	5	22	3	1	312
	F	215	53	16	3	16	4	—	229
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	M	58	14	3	3	6	2	—	58
	F	58	7	1	2	2	2	1	57
Totals ...	...	607	173	52	13	46	11	2	656

It should be observed that the deaths shown in the above table are the total number of deaths of persons on the register and is not necessarily those whose death was classified as attributable to tuberculosis.

Mortality. The number of deaths during 1951, which according to the Registrar General were attributable to tuberculosis, was 49 (45 respiratory and 4 non-respiratory). This figure includes 2 persons who had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Compulsory Isolation of Cases. It was not found necessary during 1951 to take action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the removal of patients to hospital.

Chest Clinic. This clinic, administered by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee, is held at the Municipal Health Centre at the following times :

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Monday | 2— 4 p.m. | New adult patients. |
| Tuesday | 2— 4 p.m. | Former patients for clinical and x-ray examinations by appointment. |
| Wednesday | 9—11 a.m. | Children's Clinic (old and new patients). |
| Thursday | 9—10 a.m. | Artificial pneumothorax refill clinic (male patients only). |
| | 2— 4 p.m. | Former patients by appointment. |
| Friday | 10—11 a.m. | Artificial pneumothorax refill clinic (female patients only). |
| | 2— 4 p.m. | Special review of patients by appointment. |

VENEREAL DISEASES

The Venereal Diseases Clinic is located at the rear of the Municipal Health Centre and sessions are held at the following times :

	Males		Females	
Monday	4.45—6.30 p.m.		Tuesday	5—6.30 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.		Friday	11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Thursday	4.45—6.30 p.m.			
Saturday	11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.			

To bring the clinic facilities to the notice of the public generally, small notices are placed in all the Public Lavatories in the Borough, stating the location of the clinic and hours of attendance. The notice also states that treatment is free and is provided with the utmost privacy.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Blackpool & Fylde Hospital Management Committee for the following details :

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other conditions		Totals		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Number of patients on 1st January, 1951, under treatment or observation	148	150	46	26	58	5	252	191	443
Number of patients removed from the register during any previous year which returned during 1951 for treatment or observation or the same condition	3	2	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
Number of patients dealt with for the first time during 1951 (excluding those transferred from other Centres, etc.)	29	21	74	9	247	51	350	81	431
Number of patients dealt with for the first time who have been transferred from other Centres (civil or service) or from practitioners approved under Ministry of Health Circular 2226	10	4	3	1	1	—	14	5	19
Number of patients suffering from syphilis and gonorrhoea discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure, or who were diagnosed as "other conditions"	18	11	63	29	269	56	350	96	446
Number of defaulters and known deaths	41	29	24	3	—	—	65	32	97
Number of patients transferred to other Centres or Institutions or approved practitioners	25	8	13	1	6	1	44	10	54
Number of patients remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1951	106	129	23	3	31	9	160	141	301

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Medical Examinations. All entrants to the local government service in the Borough are medically examined at the Municipal Health Centre and a certificate of fitness or otherwise is forwarded to the department concerned. Various other medical examinations are carried out, e.g. to ascertain if a person should be retired on medical grounds, because of prolonged absence from duty, and examinations on behalf of other authorities for which a charge is made. A total of 1,114 examinations were carried out during the year.

Cremations. The Medical Officer of Health and the Deputy Medical Officer of Health are respectively the Medical Referee and the Deputy Medical Referee to the Blackpool Crematorium. 2,468 cremations were authorised during the year.

Light Treatment, Exercise and Massage Clinic. This clinic is located at the Municipal Health Centre and is staffed by two fully qualified physiotherapists. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday.

The solarium provides facilities for children attending the infant welfare clinics, found to be under-developed and/or debilitated. The individual cubicles are reserved for mothers and children requiring special treatment.

One very important function is the service rendered in providing ante-natal exercises for expectant mothers. Tonic treatment, corrective exercises and massage are also available for those attending the ante and post natal clinics. Remedial and corrective exercises are quite a new feature and have only been fully developed during the last two years.

Facilities for artificial sunlight, radiant heat and exercises have been extended to Bispham clinic and I should like to see a further extension of these services by starting sessions at the Hawes Side Lane clinic. The new clinic at Layton will be ready to function towards the end of 1952 and it would be to the advantage of the mothers and children attending that clinic, if they could have the necessary treatment there instead of going to Bispham clinic or the Health Centre.

The following table summarises the work at the clinics during the year under review :

Treatment	Expectant and Nursing Mothers				Children under 5 years				Schoolchildren				Tuberculosis Cases		Miscellaneous	
	Cases		Attendances		Cases		Attendances		Cases		Attendances		Cases		Attendances	
	Municipal Health Centre Clinic	Bispham Clinic														
Artificial Sunlight	373	66	4141	607	207	163	2944	1751	714	—	7415	—	10	—	38	—
Remedial Exerc's	206	27	817	142	33	25	337	184	32	—	221	—	—	—	24	—
Radiant Heat ...	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	96	—	2	—	5	17
Massage ...	—	—	—	—	31	11	309	160	6	—	33	—	—	—	*	*
Kromayer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	212	—

* Included in details for remedial exercises.

PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, AND CERTAIN OTHER STATUTES

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Clinics. Clinics are held in premises at the Municipal Health Centre, Whitegate Drive, Hawes Side Lane (junction with Crompton Avenue), Bispham (junction of Devonshire Road and Bispham Road) and in temporary accommodation at church premises in Westcliffe Drive, Layton. It is anticipated that the permanent clinic premises at Layton, which are at present under construction, will be brought into operation towards the end of 1952.

In view of the rapid expansion of the Mereside housing estate the need for clinic facilities in that area has now become one of urgency, and this Authority has submitted suitable proposals to the Ministry of Health. It is also intended that provision should be made in these premises for a consulting room and a waiting room to enable local general medical practitioners to provide services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act as envisaged in Section 21 of that Act.

Ante-Natal Services. Six ante-natal clinic sessions are held weekly. A doctor and the Health Visitors for the district covered by the clinics are in attendance at each session. Clinics are held at the Municipal Health Centre; Bispham Clinic, Red Bank Road; Hawes Side Lane Clinic, and in church premises on Westcliffe Drive, Layton. A full report of the work done in the ante-natal clinics was given in my last Annual Report. A representative from the local Food Office attends at each session of the clinic to distribute orange juice and vitamin capsules. Attendances at the different clinics during the year are as follows :

	Municipal Health Centre	Bispham Clinic	Hawes Side Lane Clinic	Layton Clinic	Total
First visits	518	189	327	176	1210
Total visits...	3979	1527	2672	1518	9696
Number of women who attended during the year	654	254	466	330	1704
Number of clinic sessions per week	2	1	2	1	6

NOTES ON THE RHESUS FACTOR DURING PREGNANCY

All expectant mothers who attended the Blackpool Ante-Natal Clinics during the year 1951 had a blood investigation carried out, and a card issued by the pathologist giving the A.B.O. and Rh Grouping, was handed to each expectant mother.

During this period the blood investigation of 1,160 ante-natal cases necessitated the taking of 1,535 blood specimens. Of these 1,160, 959 were found to be Rh Positive and 201 Rh Negative. The latter being 17 per cent. Of these 201 cases, further investigation showed the development of Rh Antibodies in 13 cases. Notes on 12 cases are set out below. In the remaining case the estimated date of delivery is in February 1952 and notes on the case will be given in my Annual Report for 1952.

- Mrs. M. Admitted. Foetal death on 24.1.51. and also Hydramnious. History of no movements for past 2 weeks. Delivered of stillborn macerated foetus on 1.2.51.
 E.D.D. 14.2.51.
 Gravida 3.
- Mrs. V. Admitted in labour on 29.12.51. Delivered of living female child with several deformities, including heart murmur, on 30.12.51. Baby died 12.1.52.
 E.D.D. 26.12.51.
 Gravida 4.
- Mrs. W. Admitted in labour on 28.8.51. Delivered of stillborn macerated foetus on 8.9.51—Hydrops Foetalis.
 E.D.D. 17.10.51.
 Gravida 7.
- Mrs. S. Admitted from Clinic on 25.6.51. for Artificial Rupture of Membranes—Rh Negative with Antibodies. Artificial Rupture of Membranes on 27.6.51. Delivered on 28.6.51. Coombes Test on Cord Blood found to be Positive. Haemoglobin 120% of Average Normal. 2.7.51. Haemoglobin 135% of Average Normal. Baby's condition appeared satisfactory.
 E.D.D. 9.7.51.
 Gravida 2.
- Mrs. B. Admitted on 12.8.51. for Induction at 36 weeks—Rhesus Negative with Antibodies. Delivered of living child on 23.8.51. Coombes test on Cord Blood Negative. Baby appears satisfactory.
 E.D.D. 27.8.51.
 Gravida 8.
- Mrs. M. 18.10.51. Admitted for rest. Delivered of living infant on 23.11.51. Coombes test Positive. Jaundice developed with falling Haemoglobin. Transfusions given on 29.11.51. and 11.12.51. Condition satisfactory.
 E.D.D. 17.10.51.
 Gravida 7.
- Mrs. W. Admitted in labour on 20.12.51. and delivered of living child. No treatment required.
 E.D.D. 2.1.52.
 Gravida 2.

Mrs. W. E.D.D. 10.51. Gravida 3.	Admitted on 14.8.51. for Induction—Rh Negative with Antibodies and delivered of a living child. Coombes Test Positive. Jaundice developed with falling Haemoglobin. Transfusion given 3.9.51.
Mrs. P. E.D.D. 24.12.51. Gravida 3.	Admitted in labour on 18.12.51. Delivered of living child on 19.12.51. Coombes Test on Cord Blood Negative. No treatment required.
Mrs. M. E.D.D. 28.9.51. Gravida 2.	Admitted for Induction on 30.10.51. Delivered of living child on 4.11.51. Coombes test on Cord Blood Positive. Jaundice developed with falling Haemoglobin. Transfusion given on 15.11.51.
Mrs. B. E.D.D. 22.8.51. Gravida 2.	Admitted in labour on 4.8.51. and delivered of living child. No treatment required.
Mrs. G. E.D.D. 23.9.51. Gravida 2.	Admitted in labour on 17.9.51. and delivered of living child. No treatment required.

A Kahn Test was also done on each blood specimen and where found to be positive it was repeated and the case referred, where necessary, to the women's special clinic for further investigation and treatment if required.

Wassermann Reactions were found to be positive in seven cases. Of these, two were found to be already attending for treatment and the other five were referred to the special clinic for treatment.

ANTE-NATAL SPECIAL CLINIC

Patients who attend ante-natal clinics and complain of abnormal discharge are referred to the Ante-Natal Special Clinic for investigation. During the year, 49 patients attended the clinic and in all there were 271 attendances.

The infecting organism was investigated in each case, specimens being sent to the Victoria Hospital Pathological Laboratory, and treatment carried out as indicated. Patients found to be suffering from gonorrhoea were referred to the venereal diseases clinic.

VIRUS INFECTIONS DURING PREGNANCY

The department is co-operating with the Ministry of Health in an enquiry, the purpose of which is to compare the risk of congenital defects occurring among children (a) born of women who suffered from rubella, mumps, chickenpox or poliomyelitis at some time during pregnancy, and (b) born of other women.

The two groups of expectant mothers are selected as follows :

- (a) those who on first coming under ante-natal supervision have already had a virus infection during that pregnancy, or who suffer an attack during the subsequent course of the pregnancy ;
- (b) those who on first reporting for ante-natal supervision have not had a virus infection, and who do not suffer an attack during pregnancy, and whose birthday occurred on the 31st day of any month and year. This group is known as the control series.

Both types are recorded at the ante-natal clinics on special cards which are passed on to the General Register Office for initial registration. The child is subsequently examined at birth, on the first birthday and on the second birthday to ascertain whether there are any congenital defects. The results of these examinations are recorded on the above mentioned cards which are again forwarded to the General Register Office for final registration.

Up to the end of the year, seven cases under group (a) above and twelve "controls" had been recorded and notified to the General Register Office.

The results of the enquiry will not be known for at least another three years, as it is intended to continue recording "cases" and "controls" until the end of 1952.

CONFINEMENTS IN HOSPITAL

The Ministry of Health has now revised the policy governing admissions to Maternity Hospitals and as a result admissions to the maternity accommodation in Blackpool are either made on medical recommendation or because of unsuitable home conditions. Where an expectant mother wishes to have her confinement in hospital and there are no medical reasons to support it, this department is requested to indicate whether or not the home conditions are suitable for a home confinement.

It was felt that the report on the home conditions could best be given by the Domiciliary Midwife, who would later have to undertake the care of the patient should it be found possible for her to have the baby at home. Since October 1951, when the revised policy took effect, 59 cases have been reported upon to the hospital authorities.

Post-Natal Services. The Post-Natal Clinic is held on Thursday afternoon at the Municipal Health Centre, and is staffed by a Medical Officer, a midwife and a pupil midwife.

All mothers who have attended ante-natal clinics are encouraged to attend for examination six weeks after confinement.

An assessment of the mother's general health is made at this visit, taking into account her health prior to confinement and the type of delivery she has had. Any degree of anaemia is noted and treated. A pelvic examination is made and any abnormality found treated as required, including cauterisation of cervical erosions.

Total attendances during the year were as under :

First visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500
Total visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	721
Number of women who attended during the year							...	532

Infant Welfare Services. Seven sessions of the Infant Welfare Clinic are held weekly and, as will be seen from the details below, are very well attended. The mother brings her infant as soon as she feels able to do so. Advice on the general care and feeding of the baby is given. The progress and development of the child mentally and physically is watched, and where necessary the advice of the clinic Medical Officer is sought for the child by the Health Visitor or requested by the mother. Various proprietary brands of dried milks, strained foods, baby cereals and vitamin preparations are on sale at the clinics.

During the year the attendances at the clinic were as follows :

	Municipal Health Centre	Bispham Clinic	Hawes Side Lane Clinic	Layton Clinic	Total
First visits :—					
Under one year of age at first attendance ...	459	256	329	280	1324
Over one year at first attendance	63	66	56	45	230
Total visits :—					
Under one year of age	5948	4342	5784	3815	19889
Over one year of age	2033	1420	1604	1610	6667
Number of children who attended clinic during the year	984	917	968	878	3647
Number of children in attendance at the end of the year who were then :—					
Under one year of age	450	234	355	163	1202
Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	534	683	613	715	2545
Number of clinic sessions per week	2	2	2	1	7

Birth Control Clinic. It should be stressed that this is not a family planning clinic nor is advice given on purely economic grounds. Women are only seen if they have been recommended to attend by a medical practitioner and present a medical certificate to that effect. The recommendations set out in Ministry of Health memorandum 153/MCW (July 1930) and circulars 1208 (July 1931) and 1408 (May 1934) on Birth Control are strictly followed, i.e. clinics are to be available only for women who are in need of medical advice and treatment for gynaecological conditions, and advice on contraceptive methods is to be given only to married women who attend the clinics for such medical advice or treatment, and in whose cases pregnancy would be detrimental to health. What is, or what is not, detrimental to health is decided by the medical officer at the clinic and advice is given to married women suffering from sickness, physical or mental, other than gynaecological conditions providing childbirth would be detrimental to the woman's health.

51 sessions of this clinic were held during the year at which 124 patients were advised. 47 of these were attending the clinic for the first time and in all 364 visits were made.

Day Nurseries. I referred in my last report to the proposed closing of two nurseries and to the proposal that only the following priority classes should be allowed to use the remaining three nurseries.

- (i) Unmarried mothers,
- (ii) Widows,
- (iii) Mothers not living with, or supported by their husbands and not in receipt of a separation or other similar allowance,
- (iv) Mothers whose husbands are incapacitated by reason of ill-health or are themselves similarly incapacitated, and
- (v) Mothers whose husbands are serving in H.M. Forces.

The Minister of Health on 5th January, gave an unconditional approval to the above proposals and they were brought into effect as from the 1st March. Details of average attendances and numbers on the register at the three remaining nurseries as at the year end are given below.

Nursery	Number on register 31.12.51		Daily Average Attendance	
	Under 2 years	2—5 years	Under 2 years	2—5 years
Caunce Street...	5	26	3·6	21·7
Claremont Park	2	18	5·1	14·9
Lostock Gardens	—	15	2·8	15·9

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported amongst children attending the nurseries.

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	57
Chickenpox	...	...	...	...	...	12
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	2

Child Life Protection and Adoption of Children. By arrangement between the Children's Committee and the Health Committee my Health Visitors visit foster children under the age of five years. A consolidated report on these visits is submitted to the Boarding-Out Sub-Committee of the Children's Committee. The Health Visitors also visit the homes of persons wishing to adopt children and individual reports are forwarded to the Children's Officer. 203 visits were made for the above purposes during the year and of the 76 prospective foster parents visited, 34 homes were considered suitable and 29 unsuitable. The remainder either withdrew their applications to become foster parents or could not be contacted by my Health Visitor.

Routine medical inspections of the children resident in the Residential Nursery, 214 Whitegate Drive, and the Grundy Home, Stoneyhill Avenue, and a medical examination of all admissions to, and discharges from these homes, are carried out by the Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer.

Mother and Baby Homes. The Fylde House of Help arranges accommodation, and the Lancaster Diocesan Protection and Rescue Society maintains a home, where the unmarried mother may have her confinement and where the child may be kept temporarily until it is adopted or the mother is discharged with the child. An annual grant is made by this Authority to these bodies, in addition to which maintenance fees incurred in respect of Blackpool patients are also met. Seven women for whom this authority was responsible, were admitted to these homes in 1951, and one was admitted to the Salvation Army Hostel, Liverpool.

Illegitimate Children. Supervision of these children is carried out by the Superintendent Nursing Officer assisted by the Health Visitors. The Fylde House of Help and the Lancaster Diocesan Protection and Rescue Society, are responsible for much of the social work in Blackpool connected with the unmarried mother and her child.

Nurseries and Child Minders (Regulations) Act, 1948. This Act requires the registration of premises, either at factories or elsewhere, used as day nurseries, and of persons who, for reward, receive children into their homes to look after them. The three day nurseries maintained by this Authority are outside the scope of this Act. As at the end of 1951, three daily minders providing for eight children, were registered with this Authority.

Dental Treatment. No action was taken during the year to implement the proposals under Section 22 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the establishment of a dental clinic at the Municipal Health Centre.

Premature Infants. For the purpose of this department's activities, a premature baby is defined as one which weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth irrespective of the period of gestation. Details of premature births during 1951 where the mother was normally resident in Blackpool are :

(a) No. of premature live infants born at home whose period of gestation was :

(i) 28 weeks and over	...	...	...	...	...	24
(ii) Less than 28 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	1

(b) No. of premature live infants born in private nursing homes whose period of gestation was :

(i) 28 weeks and over	...	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Less than 28 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	1

(c) No. of premature live infants born in hospital whose period of gestation was :

(i) 28 weeks and over	...	...	...	...	...	90
(ii) Less than 28 weeks	...	...	...	...	...	6

Weight	Transferred to Hospital	Born at home				Born in private nursing home				Born in Maternity Homes or Hospitals in Health Service			
		Nursed entirely at home		Nursed entirely in nursing home		Nursed entirely in mat'nty home or hos'tl							
		Died in first 24 hrs.	Died 2nd—7th day	Died 8th—28th day	Survived 28 days	Died in first 24 hrs.	Died 2nd—7th day	Died 8th—28th day	Survived 28 days	Died in first 24 hrs.	Died 2nd—7th day	Died 8th—28th day	Survived 28 days
2 lb. 3 oz. or less ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	10
Over 2 lb. 3 oz. up to and including 3 lb. 4 oz....	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	4
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz....	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	2	3	1	16
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	1	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	19
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz....	4	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	2	2	1	—	44
Totals	11	—	—	—	14	14	—	1	—	3	14	4	3
											75		96

To ensure that all facilities are available for the care of premature babies the following arrangements have been made :

- (a) In the case of babies born in the Maternity Hospital or Nursing Home, the residence of the parents is visited by the Health Visitor prior to discharge. She ensures that the conditions to which the baby will return are satisfactory, that there are adequate heating arrangements, and that a suitable cot and sufficient clothing are available. Special equipment, where necessary, is provided by this department. The Health Visitor, may if she desires, visit the mother in hospital and she may also recommend that the baby be detained in hospital for a longer period than usual where the home conditions are not satisfactory.
- (b) The birth of a premature baby at home is reported by the midwife to the Superintendent Nursing Officer who discusses with the midwife the care of the baby and if necessary visits the home. Any special equipment needed is provided by this department. Should the baby be very feeble it is usually found advisable to have it admitted to hospital.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Five midwives are employed by this Authority for attendance on those women who are to have their confinement at home. During the year they attended 116 cases as midwives and 133 cases as maternity nurses. This is a reduction of 49 on the previous year but it is conceivable that domiciliary confinements will increase as a result of the Ministry of Health's new policy regarding admissions to Maternity Homes and Hospitals in the National Health Service.

HEALTH VISITING

Of the thirteen Health Visitors in this department, three are permanently seconded to tuberculosis duties and attend at sessions of the chest clinic in addition to routine visiting to tuberculous or suspected tuberculous patients and contacts of notified cases ; a further two nurses are engaged solely in visiting notified cases of infectious disease. The remaining eight nurses are occupied primarily with the care of mothers and young children, but visit a number of other cases, e.g. persons wishing to adopt children, children subject to legislation on Child Life Protection, chronic sick persons awaiting admission to Wesham Park Hospital, Kirkham.

Details of visits made during the year are as follows :

Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children between the age of 1 and 5		Tuberculous Patients		Cases of Infectious Disease		Other Cases	
First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	
338	615	1662	6430	1050	11606	154	5339	3473	1350	1825	

Note : Other cases includes, e.g. contacts of tuberculous patients and cases under observations, persons wishing to adopt children, chronic sick cases wishing to go into Wesham Park Hospital, boarded-out children, post-natal cases, stillbirths and infant deaths, and cases of puerperal pyrexia.

HOME NURSING

Fourteen whole time nurses are employed by this Authority for home nursing duties. 1,370 patients were attended by the nurses during the year and these cases necessitated a total of 41,154 visits.

To supplement this service, a store of sick room equipment is maintained at the Municipal Health Centre for loan where a person is being attended by home nurses or nursed by relatives or friends. A small charge is made for the loan of the articles for a period of three months or less ; this charge may be reduced or waived altogether in cases of financial hardship. No charge is made where the article is on loan to tuberculous patients. 359 articles were issued on loan during the year, and in 85 instances the loan was renewed after the initial three monthly period.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

An Immunisation Clinic is held at the Municipal Health Centre on Saturday mornings, and anyone who wishes may be immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough free of charge. Those children under 5 years of age who attend the infant welfare clinics at Hawes Side Lane or Bispham, may be immunised at the routine visit to the clinic. The Vaccination Clinic is held once a week at the Municipal Health Centre.

Arrangements have been made with certain medical practitioners for free vaccination and immunisation for any person who so desires. A payment of five shillings is made to the doctor on completion of the appropriate record card.

It is desirable that children should be vaccinated as soon as possible after it is four months old and immunised after nine months. A notice to this effect is sent to all parents shortly after the birth of their child or children.

Schoolchildren are normally immunised against diphtheria under arrangements made by the School Medical Clinic and during the year 727 completed a full course of primary immunisation. A further 1,476 schoolchildren received re-inforcing injections.

The table below shows the numbers of children immunised against diphtheria in various age groups in relation to child population, i.e. the number of children in the particular age groups who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1951. Of the children under 5 years of age, 49·8% were immunised, and of those between 5 years and 15 years, 87·1% were so protected.

Age at 31.12.51 i.e. Born in Year)	Under 1 1951	1 1950	2 1949	3 1948	4 1947	5-9 1942-1946	10-14 1937-1941	Total under fifteen
Number Immunised	72	825	940	1242	1264	6069	7218	17630
Estimated Mid-year Population 1951			8710			15261		23971

During the year, 366 children completed a course of immunisation against whooping cough. Towards the end of the year a new suspended whooping cough vaccine was taken into use and it is hoped that in the year 1952 it will be possible to persuade an increasing number of parents to have their children immunised.

The table below shows the number of persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated during the year.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 and over	Total
No. vaccinated ...	167	7	26	41	73	314
No. re-vaccinated	—	—	9	18	184	211

No cases of generalised vaccinia, post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis or deaths resulting from complication of vaccination have been reported.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service provided by this Authority in accordance with the requirements of the National Health Service Act is operated in two distinct sections. Firstly, there is the local authority service maintained by the municipal transport department which deals with non-infectious cases, accidents and maternity cases, and secondly there is the agency service supplied by the Blackpool Invalid Transport Service which deals with infectious cases and out-of-town journeys.

The service is functioning satisfactorily and every endeavour is made to see that it is not misused, particularly in the case of long distance journeys. Where possible, travel by train is arranged providing the medical practitioner agrees that the patient is fit to travel by that means. I am pleased to report increasing co-operation from general medical practitioners but I feel that there is still further room for improvement.

The following table summarises the work of the ambulance services during 1951.

(1)	Number of vehicles at 31.12.51 (2)	Total no. of journeys during the year (3)	Total no. of patients carried during the year (4)	No. of accident and other emergency journeys incl. in Col. 3 during the year (5)	Total mileage during the year (6)
Local Authority Service	11 ambulances 1 car	11,148* 572	21,534 6,036	2,485	68,877 11,224
Agency service	5 ambulances 1 car	2,861 192	3,411 217	—	101,100 11,399 †

NOTE : * In this case "journeys" includes all removals involved in any one tour of duty, i.e. from the time the vehicle leaves the ambulance station to the time it returns.

† Local journeys not recorded.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis. I referred in my last report to the fact that B.C.G. vaccinations would commence in 1951 and I am indebted to Dr. F. C. S. Bradbury, the Consultant Chest Physician to the Blackpool & Fylde Hospital Management Committee, for the following report.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

Just as the introduction of smallpox vaccination led to the virtual disappearance of that disease, so it is believed that the use of B.C.G. vaccination will make a material contribution to the disappearance of tuberculosis.

Practically every one becomes infected with tuberculosis germs on one or many occasions, and it is easy to tell by a simple skin test who has, and who has not been infected. This usually happens in childhood, and we know that about half the children of school-leaving age have already been infected. Fortunately, most of them show no ill effects, but a few show obvious evidence of the disease in the form of tuberculosis of the lungs, spine and other organs, including meningitis. Moreover, it is believed that adult tuberculosis is largely determined by what happens to this childhood infection, and it is therefore important to know when the infection takes place, so that the child may be specially cared for until he has successfully overcome it.

In the case of a natural tuberculosis infection, we cannot control the time or place or dose of the infecting organisms, and all we can do is to exercise general hygienic care to prevent children becoming infected at all. It is a fact, however, that resistance to tuberculosis can only be built up by repeated stimulation of the body's defence mechanism in response to actual infection, so that a child who has never been infected has had no opportunity to build up his defences.

The all-important matter is the first infection, and if we can guarantee that this is not more than a child can successfully resist, he has taken the first step to establish successful resistance to further infections.

This is where B.C.G. comes in. It consists of a suspension of organisms which were once ordinary tuberculosis germs, but whose characters have been grossly modified by years of growth under artificial conditions. They can no longer produce disease when injected into the human body, yet their chemical nature is such that they stimulate the defence mechanism of the body just as ordinary tuberculosis germs would. In this way they can be used as an artificial substitute for that all-important first infection, with the great advantage that the dose and time can be chosen to suit the individual.

It follows from the foregoing that B.C.G. is of no value to those who have already had a tuberculosis *infection*. Their resistance mechanism has already been stimulated, and if they show no sign of illness we count them lucky that the infection was not excessive. Such an important landmark in a person's life should not be left to luck, and now that B.C.G. is available we have the means of protecting the individual by enabling him to develop his natural powers of resistance under the best possible conditions.

The number of B.C.G. vaccinations carried out in Blackpool in 1951 was 60, and the indications are that this figure will be greatly exceeded in 1952.

The visiting at home of tuberculous patients, contacts of known cases of respiratory tuberculosis and patients under observation, i.e. not yet diagnosed, is carried out by the tuberculosis health visitors. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board these nurses also attend at each session of the local Chest Clinic. The following home visits were made during the year 1951 :

						First Visits	Total Visits
Respiratory cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	138	4604
Non-respiratory cases	...	...	...	...	...	16	889
Contacts ...	...	...	...	...	...	92	334
Patients under observation	...	...	...	...	...	46	119
Death Enquiries ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	25

Every effort is made to encourage contacts of known cases of respiratory tuberculosis to attend the Chest Clinic for a periodical examination. During the year, 316 new contacts attended and a total of 906 visits to the clinic were made by all contacts. One case was subsequently diagnosed as suffering from respiratory tuberculosis.

Mass Miniature Radiography Survey. Four years have elapsed since the last survey of the town's population and it was felt that the time was now opportune for a further survey. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit will be stationed in the Borough for approximately six months. Initially the Unit was set up, on the 26th November, 1951, in the single-storey building on the old market site. It is not intended that the unit should remain on the one location but should operate in different parts of the Borough more conveniently situated for works' employees, schoolchildren and the population generally.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, to which I referred in some detail in my last report, has continued to function as satisfactorily as possible with the present establishment of domestic helps which is completely inadequate to meet the ever increasing demands made on the service. An endeavour is made, however, to see that all applicants are allocated a help for some period during a week.

The full charge for the service, which is based on the all-in cost of the scheme to this Authority, has been increased to 2/7d. per hour. An abatement is allowed for low incomes and where the illness is likely to be protracted, e.g. tuberculosis, cancer or some chronic disability, the charge is subject to a special review and may be waived unless the recipient of the service is of sound financial means.

As at the end of the year, fifteen whole-time and six part-time domestic helps were employed. The allocation of duties and the initial investigation into all requests for the service are carried out by the Domestic Help Supervisor. Domestic help was provided for the following cases during 1951 :

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	...	...	18
Tuberculous patients	...	...	...	14
Other cases	...	...	...	182

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

In my Annual Reports for the years 1948 and 1949 I commented fully on the organisation and activities for carrying out the work of this very important section of the department. To recapitulate briefly, the duties of the local health authority are :

- (a) The provision of duly authorised officers to take action under Sections 14, 15, 16 and 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and Sections 5(2) and 17 of the Mental Treatment Act, 1930.
- (b) The ascertainment of defectives in the area, supervision of defectives and if supervision is insufficient the taking of steps to secure that they are either sent to an institution or placed under guardianship, and the provision of suitable training or occupation for defectives under community care.
- (c) To make arrangements for the care and after-care of persons (in the community) suffering from mental illness or mental defectiveness.

ADMINISTRATION

Constitution and Meetings of the Mental Health Sub-Committee. The sub-committee is constituted in accordance with Part II of the fourth schedule of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and consists of twelve members, nine of whom are members of the local authority and include one medical practitioner and three co-opted members (a medical practitioner, the chairman of the Executive Council and one lady). The sub-committee meets quarterly.

Number and Qualifications of Staff Employed in the Mental Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health is directly responsible for the administration of this service. He has the services of a medical officer, experienced in mental deficiency work, whose main duties are the ascertainment of defectives, medical supervision of guardianship cases and the carrying out of periodic examinations of pupils attending at the Occupation Centre. At the commencement of the year the non-medical staff consisted of two Duly Authorised Officers (males), both of whom have attended a National Association for Mental Health course, one Mental Health Worker (female), one Supervisor and one Assistant Supervisor for the Occupation Centre.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees. All applications for vacancies for National Health Service patients have to be sent through Whittingham Mental Hospital Bed Bureau. Voluntary patients have first to be referred to the Psychiatric Clinic at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, before admissions to hospital are arranged. As this clinic is run on Monday and Wednesday afternoons only and bookings are excessive, it frequently happens that patients have to wait several weeks before vacancies are allocated. Patients are referred to this clinic through various organisations apart from the Mental Health Section of the Local Authority.

Vacancies in mental deficiency institutions in the Manchester Regional Hospital Board area are controlled directly from the Board's offices in Manchester.

Nine History Reports were furnished to mental hospitals during the year. No applications were received from mental hospitals in connection with the visitation of patients on trial. 93 visits were made to defectives on licence; 28 reports were made under Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913; 28 Periodic Reports were submitted and 16 reports made regarding holidays or licence from mental deficiency institutions.

General. No duties have been delegated to voluntary organisations nor as yet have any arrangements been initiated for the training of Mental Health Workers.

WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946. During the year, 233 new cases were referred to the Mental Health Section from various sources, e.g. medical practitioners, police, probation officers, Child Guidance Clinic, etc. 429 domiciliary visits were made to people referred as being in need of care and attention. The majority were people who had been discharged from hospital, and many who though unwilling to accept mental treatment welcomed visits and advice. Transport was provided for 16 patients to have electro-convulsive treatment as out-patients at Whittingham Mental Hospital..

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act, 1890-1930. The following table shows the number of health service patients admitted to hospitals during the year classified according to the Section of the Act under which they were admitted.

Mode of Admission	HOSPITAL						
	Upton Park	Sharoe Green	Wesham Park	Whittingham	Lancaster Moor	Prestwich	Storthes Hall
Lunacy Act, 1890 :							
Section 16 ...	1	—	11	45	3	1	—
Section 20 ...	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
Section 21 ...	—	1	72	5	—	—	—
Section 21 (2) ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Mental Treatment Act, 1930 :							
Section 2 ...	—	—	1	48	7	2	1

Great difficulty is being experienced in dealing with senile female patients who have behaviour disorders. These patients are a source of worry to their relatives and a nuisance to the neighbours and police. There is no provision for dealing with such cases other than by the Lunacy Acts, a most undesirable procedure, particularly at the present time when there is a shortage of hospital accommodation.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. The following statistics relate to the defectives reported during the year, the disposal of such cases and the classification of defectives in the community as the year end.

	During 1951				Total as at 31st December, 1951			
	Under age 16		Aged 16 and over		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
(1) Cases reported during 1951 :								
(a) By Local Education Authorities :								
(i) Under Section 57 (3)	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) Under Section 57 (5) :								
On leaving special schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On leaving ordinary schools	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Cases referred by the police or by the Courts under Section 8 (1) (a) (or as a result of other action by the Courts)	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other defectives reported during 1951 :								
(i) Found "subject to be dealt with"	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
(ii) Not at present "subject to be dealt with"	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total	7	6	5	3	—	—	—	—
(2) Disposal of cases :								
(a) Those found "subject to be dealt with" :								
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision	3	5	—	2	10	15	23	23
(ii) Placed under Guardianship	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
(iii) Taken to "Places of safety"	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Admitted to Institutions	—	—	3	—	8	7	39	29
(v) Died or removed from area	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(vi) Action not yet taken	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Those not at present "subject to be dealt with" :								
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—	—	2	1	6	3
(ii) Later found not to be defective	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
(iii) Died or removed from area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iv) Action unnecessary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(v) Action not yet taken	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	6	5	3	24	24	70	55
(3) Classification of defectives in the Community as at the end of the year :								
(a) Cases included in item 2 (a) (i) to (iii) above in need of institutional care :								
(1) In urgent need of institutional care :								
(i) Cot and chair cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Not in urgent need of institutional care :								
(i) Cot and chair cases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
(ii) Ambulant low grade cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
(iii) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
(iv) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	5
(b) Of the cases included in 3 (a) above, number in need of institutional care only because of poor environment :								
(i) Medium grade cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) High grade cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Of the cases included in items 2 (a) (i) and (ii) and 2 (b) (i) above, number considered suitable for :								
(i) Occupation centre	—	—	—	—	8	7	4	2
(ii) Industrial centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Home training	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	8	7	4	2
(d) Number of cases receiving training on 31st December, 1951 :								
(i) In occupation centre	—	—	—	—	8	7	4	2
(ii) In industrial centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	8	7	4	2

Guardianship and Supervision of Defectives. 206 domiciliary visits were made to defectives under Guardianship or Statutory Supervision and 127 visits for general enquiries and to defectives under voluntary supervision.

Occupation and Training of Defectives. At 31st December, 1951, there were 24 defectives on the register at the Occupation Centre, including 3 cases admitted from the Lancashire County administrative area. The average daily attendance was 19. The mid-day meal is supplied from the School Kitchen under arrangements with the Chief Education Officer. Transport to and from the Centre is provided by the Corporation Transport Department under requisition of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Occupation Centre, held in the Parochial Hall of Holy Trinity Church, South Shore, was taken over from the Lancashire Mental Hospitals Board on the appointed day. The capacity of this Centre is quite inadequate for our requirements. Early in the year 1952, it is proposed to transfer the Centre to premises, re-adapted for the purpose from a Day Nursery, at the Municipal Health Centre, Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, where full advantage may be taken of the better amenities and facilities for training. The present staff consists of one supervisor and one assistant supervisor. When the new premises are occupied it is proposed to employ one trainee to assist with the extra number of defectives to be accommodated.

Admissions to Mental Deficiency Institutions. Eight defectives were admitted to institution during the year, three of whom had been first reported in the year. The following table classified the admissions according to the institution and the Section of the Mental Deficiency Act under which action was taken.

	<i>Calderstones Hospital, Whalley</i>	<i>Brockhall Hospital, Blackburn</i>	<i>Fountain Hospital, London</i>
Mental Deficiency Act, 1913 :			
Section 3	...	—	1
" 5	...	2	—
" 8	...	1	—
" 15	...	1	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act was invoked on three occasions during the year under review, and in each case the Medical Officer of Health issued the necessary certificate. In two instances court orders were made for removal of the patients to hospital for the prescribed period of three months. In the third case the patient died before the case could be presented at court.

Case A : Widow, 85 years, filthy condition, incontinent, refused to move from her chair, had been in poor health for more than two years and refused to see a doctor. Living in the house was a middle-aged stepson, incapable of caring for his mother because of ill-health. This stepson had tried to follow his employment and frequently on his return home had found his mother in a collapsed condition on the floor of the house. Admitted Wesham Park Hospital, Kirkham, Lancs.

Case B : Widow, 88 years, only able to move by crawling, generally laid on two chairs, refused to consult a doctor, incontinent, had no change of clothes, refused to buy clothes or pay for laundering, dependent on landlady for meals, would not have anything to do with aged relatives. Landlady, because of ill-health, unable to continue providing meals. Admitted Wesham Park Hospital, Kirkham, Lancs.

Case C : Widow, 82 years, no relatives, lived on her own. House in a filthy and verminous condition. Patient dirty and refused to consult a doctor. Spent her income on drink and betting, begged food from neighbours. No light or heat in the house. Found in a collapsed condition by the police who arranged removal to hospital where patient died before the case could be presented at Court.

REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES

Four nursing homes closed during the year and as there were no new registrations the number of homes as at 31st December was reduced to seven. Details of these, together with the accommodation, are given below.

Address	Beds	
	Maternity	Others
Ashleigh, 26, Leys Road ...	5	2
Central Nursing Home, 230, Hornby Road ...	—	12
Sunnyside Nursing Home, 420, Lytham Road ...	—	4
Cloverley Nursing Home, 160, Reads Avenue ...	6	4
Convent of Our Lady of Wisdom, 575, Lytham Road...	—	23
Glenfell Nursing Home, 308, St. Annes Road ...	—	2
Ascot Nursing Home, 13, Luton Road ...	—	10

Fifteen visits of inspection to registered nursing homes were made by the Maternity & Child Welfare Medical Officer and the Superintendent Nursing Officer. One or two minor faults were noted and these were rectified by the nursing homes without this department having to take action under the Public Health Acts. On the change of ownership of one establishment certain suggestions were made for the improvement of the home.

MIDWIVES ACTS, 1902-1951

Inspection of Registered Midwives. As at 31st December, 1951, nine midwives were in private practice—four in nursing homes and the remainder in domiciliary practice. The midwives in domiciliary practice are visited periodically by the Superintendent Nursing Officer, who is the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives—at this visit the midwives' bags, appliances and registers are examined. Three visits of inspection were made during 1951. Those midwives employed in nursing homes are seen on the routine inspections of these homes.

Medical Aid under Section 14(1) of the Midwives Act, 1951. Medical aid was summoned by midwives in 66 instances. In seven cases the medical practitioner had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service. It was not found necessary to summon medical aid for any institutional patients.

Administration of Analgesics. Twenty-four midwives in practice in the Borough are qualified to administer analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board. Five of the midwives are in the service of this Authority, one in private domiciliary practice and eighteen in hospitals in the National Health Service. A Minnitt Gas and Air apparatus is in the possession of each of the five municipal midwives and throughout 1951 analgesia was administered in 102 cases ; in 42 instances whilst acting as a midwife and 60 instances whilst acting as a maternity nurse. This represents 41% of the total cases undertaken by the midwives. The municipal midwives administered pethidine in 89 cases ; in 45 instances whilst acting as a midwife and in 44 instances whilst acting as a maternity nurse. Details of the above cases are given in the following table :

		Received Relief		Received a fair amount of relief		Received no relief	
		Prima-gravida	Multi-gravida	Prima-gravida	Multi-gravida	Prima-gravida	Multi-gravida
		Yes	21	47	2	5	1
Received Ante-Natal instruction in the use of Gas and Air Analgesia	No	5	17	2	1	—	1
Attended for Ante-Natal Exercise	Yes	15	17	1	3	1	1
	No	11	47	3	3	—	—
Trilene administered	Yes	—	—	1	—	—	—
	No	26	64	3	6	—	1
Other Drugs Administered	Yes	23	56	3	2	1	1
	No	3	8	1	4	—	—
Stage of Labour at which Analgesia commenced	1st	22	55	4	2	1	1
	2nd	4	9	—	4	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

WATER SUPPLY

The Authority responsible for the water supply in the Borough is the Fylde Water Board.

Water delivered to Blackpool is supplied from two sources, (a) from watersheds at Barnacre, and (b) at Stocks on the River Hodder, and is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. At both these head works, upland surface water is collected and stored in reservoirs. The watershed at Barnacre is free from human habitation, and at Stocks the Board owns the watershed and controls all operations on it. The raw water is stained with peat and is treated with sulphate of alumina before filtration to remove this colour during filtration, and lime water is added after filtration to compensate acidity. Finally, the water is sterilised with chlorine. The pH of the filtered water as it leaves the filters is recorded continuously by a Multilec pH Recorder. The combined alkalinity, acidity and colour is taken at least daily at various stages of the treatment. Full chemical analyses are not frequently made but the Engineer to the Fylde Water Board has supplied me with copies of reports on samples of water taken at two points in the Borough in January 1951, and these reports, prepared by the Chief Chemist at the Manchester Corporation Waterworks, indicate that the water is of excellent chemical quality. Bacteriological analyses of water, both raw and filtered from the Barnacre and Hodder works, and from points in the Borough, similarly indicate that all the samples were satisfactory. There is no liability to plumbago-solvent action as the acidity is neutralised with lime water at the filters.

As at 31st March, 1951, there were 44,956 houses in the Borough and, with the exception of one, all had a piped supply of water. The population supplied, according to the census taken this year, is 147,131.

SEWERAGE OF THE BOROUGH

There are in the Borough 65,039 waterclosets and 295 pail closets. No record is held of pail closets on showgrounds or in temporary conveniences. A number of unsatisfactory septic tanks exist in the outlying parts of the Borough and the abolition of these and cesspools at an early date is desirable.

Completed Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. The Spen Dyke drainage scheme referred to in my last report was completed during the year.

Proposals for Future Sewage Improvements. The main proposals are as set out in my report for 1950. It is also proposed to provide foul sewers to drain certain properties in the Marton Moss area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This is carried out by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation. I am informed by the Director of Public Cleansing that the amount of refuse collected decreased slightly—the peak of the post-war boom having passed and there being a reduced number of visitors to the town due mainly to the bad weather during the summer season.

The price of waste paper rose considerably towards the end of 1950, and in March 1951 a separate collection of waste paper was yielding over 117 tons a month.

The amount of refuse dealt with at the Refuse Disposal Works was 18,289 tons, whilst in addition, 35,318 tons were tipped away and 1,558 tons of night soil were removed.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH

This section of the Annual Report, and the following sections dealing with Housing, Rodent Control and Disinfestation, General Food Supply and Prosecutions, give details of the variety of functions undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff in connection with the environmental health services.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR (TOTAL) 28573

Ash Receptacles :

Food and Drugs Act :

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	506
Cafes and Snackbars	...	...	...	...	...	...	482
Catering Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	375
Dairies and Milk Shops under Milk and Dairies Regulations						...	957
Fish Frying Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	325
Hotels and Licences Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1173
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Food Inspections and Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	4816

Miscellaneous :

Applications for Licences to Build New Houses	...	...	...	229
Bakehouses	...	...	...	776
Basements (excluding full inspections)	...	...	...	67
Building Repair Licences	...	...	...	418
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Theatres, etc.	...	...	...	16
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	128
Cowsheds	...	...	...	30
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	...	...	...	90
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act, 1936)	...	...	...	201
Factories	...	...	...	1392
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	111
Land	...	...	...	360
Military Billets	...	...	...	319
Nuisances (first inspections)	...	...	...	4344
Nuisances (re-inspections under notice)	...	...	...	6983
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	15
Piggeries	...	...	...	21
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	3
Rag Flock and Other Fillings Materials Act	...	...	...	63
Roadways, Footpaths, Back Streets and Passages	...	...	...	112
Sands and Foreshore	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous—*contd.*

Shops (Shops Act, 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1216
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Stables and Manure Heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Temporary Structures (excluding full inspections)							844
Watercourses and Ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	1117

NUMBER OF HOUSES WHERE SANITARY DEFECTS WERE FOUND	...	...	520
Defects remedied as per verbal notice	...	...	39
Defects remedied as per preliminary notice	...	...	236
Defects remedied as per statutory notice	...	...	297

NOTICES SERVED FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES :

Verbal	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Preliminary	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	256

HOUSE DRAINS TESTED :

New Houses :

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	398
Unsatisfactory on first test	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rendered satisfactory after first test	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Old Houses :

First Test—satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
First Test—unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Tested during relaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Final Test satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	70

DRAINS :

Relaid, disconnected and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Repaired, unblocked and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1097
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soil pipes repaired or fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

WATERCLOSETS :

New w.c.'s fixed in lieu of privies, pail closets and defective w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Unblocked	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flushing fittings repaired and water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

WASTE PIPES :

Bath, lavatory, slopsink and rainwater pipes disconnected over gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
New slop waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New rainwater downpipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rainwater pipes and roof gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Slop waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Water service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

MISCELLANEOUS :

Name and address of landlord inserted in rent book	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfested :							
D.D.T. and special methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Insecticide	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
New floor laid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
New slop sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

MISCELLANEOUS—*contd.*

New damp proof course fixed	13
Fire ranges re-set, repaired or provided	20
Roof repaired	93
Back yards repaired	13
Back yards reformed with flags, concrete or asphalt ...	6
Back yards cleansed	6
Rooms ventilated	2
New handrail to stairs fixed	1
Dampness remedied	60
Courts or passages reformed or repaired ...	4
Courts or passages cleaned ...	2
Watercourses cleansed	4
Accumulations removed	37
Animals removed from improper situations ...	5
Manure receptacles provided	1
Various repairs	207
Manholes, gullies, back streets, etc., reported to Cleansing Department	15
Manholes, gullies, back streets, etc., reported to Borough Surveyor ...	6
Erections in yard, etc., reported to Borough Surveyor ...	2

Building Licences. The Chief Sanitary Inspector has continued in his capacity as an authorised officer by the Ministry of Works and Local Authority, to issue licences for general repairs to dwelling houses, and during the year, 77 licences were issued for repairs to this type of premises in excess of £100, the total cost involved being £17,923 10s. Od.

In the case of repairs to business premises, inspections and recommendations have been made to the Ministry of Works, and the latter, normally, are guided by the observations of this department. This close co-operation between the Regional Office and the Local Authority avoids multiplicity of inspections, and shows economy in manpower.

209 timber permits were issued during the year for both classes of premises and the total number of visits made was 418.

Common Lodging Houses. There were two registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough and the total accommodation of these houses is as follows :

13 Eden Street	160 adults and 1 child
12 Seed Street	56 adults and 1 child

Both houses are for males only, there being no accommodation of this type for females in the town.

During the year 128 visits and inspections were made in order to maintain a reasonable standard of hygiene.

Sanitary Conditions of Theatres and Music Halls. There has been no change during the past year in the number of places of public entertainment, namely :

Cinemas	13
Cinemas (also used for variety, etc.) ...	5
Variety, etc.	6
Ballrooms	5
Ice Drome	1

All the premises were inspected during the year, and found to be satisfactory. These inspections also included the dressing room accommodation used by the artists, which is of a very high standard, considerable modernisation having taken place during the past few years.

It is no exaggeration to say that the standard generally in the theatres and music halls in Blackpool compares most favourably with any other town in the country, and again it is most gratifying to record the sense of responsibility which prompts the owners of these buildings to maintain their properties in first class condition.

Factories. During the year under review, 1,392 visits were made to factories by the District Sanitary Inspectors, and in the course of these inspections 129 contraventions of the Factories Acts of 1937 and 1948 were noted. In 100 instances, action was taken informally and it was only necessary in 29 cases for written notices to be served on the occupiers of the premises. The department is not aware of any Blackpool firms employing outworkers within the borough, but four notifications have been received from other authorities where outworking was carried on in their places locally. In all cases, these were visited and found to be satisfactory. In six instances, failure to affix an Abstract of the Factories Act, Section 128(3b) was reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

The details of the visits and conditions found in the factories are given in the following tables :—

INSPECTIONS OF FACTORIES

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	354	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1007	23	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	31	2	2
TOTAL	1392	29	2

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Not Remedied 1950	Found 1951	Remedied 1951	Not Remedied 1951	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	95	54	143	6	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	9	2	3	8	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) insufficient ...	27	9	9	27	—	2
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	27	42	60	9	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	5	5	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	37	15	12	40	6	—
TOTAL	195	129	234	90	6	2

HOMEWORK

Nature of Work	Outworkers' Lists, Section 110					
	Lists received from Employers					
	Twice in the year			Once in the year		
	Outworkers		Outworkers		Outworkers	
	Lists	Con-tractors	Work-men	Lists	Con-tractors	Work-men
Wearing Apparel—making, etc. ...	4	4	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES ON THE REGISTER (SECTION 8(3)) AT THE END OF THE YEAR

				Mechanical Power	Non-Mechanical Power
Making of Wearing Apparel	...	...	...	99	27
Bakehouses	...	...	...	145	3
Preparation of other Foods	...	...	...	107	1
Building Trades	...	...	...	54	2
Furniture making, etc.	...	...	...	28	10
Conveyances and Engineering	...	...	...	157	5
Letterpress and Photographic	...	...	...
Bookbinding	...	...	...	49	4
Other Trades	...	...	...	139	17
Laundries	...	...	...	19	—
Total No. of Factories on Register	...	...	...	797	69

Shops. 1,115 first inspections and 101 re-inspections were made to ascertain whether the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 (Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950) were being complied with. Five statutory notices were served and nine certificates of exemption granted during the year.

The undermentioned table show details of the conditions found by the sanitary inspectors and action taken to remedy the various defects.

		CLASSIFIED DEFECTS			
		Found		Repaired or remedied	
		Nil	Defective	Provided	Repaired
Sanitary conveniences	...	4	9	9	18
Washing facilities	...	4	2	8	3
Lighting	...	—	—	—	—
Ventilation	...	—	—	1	1
Temperature	...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	...	8	11	18	22

Offensive Trades. The following offensive trades exist within the Borough :

Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

With the exception of the rag and bone depots all the above are located at the Public Slaughterhouse and are under the daily observation of the Superintendent.

In the case of rag and bone dealers it should be noted that the sorting of bones is not carried out in the manner it was in the days prior to 1939, as they are collected from butchers' shops and taken direct for treatment to convert into fertilisers in a well conducted factory on the outskirts of the town at the Bispham end of the Borough.

HOUSING

Housing Statistics

1.	INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :	
(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	292
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	798
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	90
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	293
(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (including clearance areas)	2
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	162
2.	REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :	
	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or the officers	206
3.	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	54
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	77
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	153
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a) By owners	97
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	84
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
	(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	4
	(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

Clearance Areas. The position at the end of 1951 was as follows :—

Area		Date of representation	Confirmation by Ministry of Health	No. of dwellings removed, vacated or demolished	No. of dwellings still occupied	No. of families in occupation
Waterloo Road	No. 1	8.3.37	C.P.O.	13	1	1 (1 person)
Common Edge Rd.	No. 3	9.2.38	30.6.39	6	3	4 (9 persons)
Daggers Hall Lane	No. 1	9.2.38	30.6.39	8	1	1 (1 person)
Vicarage Lane	No. 1	9.2.38	30.6.39	11	—	—
Abbey Road	No. 2	9.2.38	30.6.39	1	1	1 (2 persons)
Waterloo Road	No. 2	9.2.38	30.6.39	5	1	1 (1 person)
Sedbergh Avenue	No. 1	9.2.38	30.6.39	2	1	1 (1 person)

Camps—Caravans and Wooden Structures. Reference has been made in previous reports to the extensive use of caravans and similar structures, for both permanent and temporary use, and a marked feature of the year 1951 has been the increase in the number of these movable dwellings being used for permanent habitation. Fortunately, the majority are of the modern type, of good construction and well equipped, and quite a number of the owner occupiers have expressed a preference for living in this type of accommodation as compared to a permanent dwelling. From the point of view of privacy, of course, these modern caravans are much better than "rooms" and it cannot be denied that at least such a type of housing avoids many of the complications which occur when families are sharing a house. Compared with a modern municipal dwellinghouse, however, a caravan is only a poor substitute, and as more houses become available, I am of the opinion that the number of people who desire to occupy caravans will decrease.

In order to provide for the lack of amenities within the Borough, one site in Blackpool during the year has been prepared for the reception of vans for permanent habitation, and the owners of the land have installed baths for the two sexes, washing facilities, with constant hot and cold water including electric washing machines and drying rooms. A recreation centre has also been provided. As the site was previously provided with proper modern sanitary conveniences and roads, it was only necessary for the Corporation to insist upon an extension of the drainage system, in order to secure for the residents on the site a fairly high standard of sanitation, and it is pleasant to record that no complaints whatever have been received during the year from the residents of this particular camp. Adequate supervision by the owners has ensured that the camp is maintained on a very high standard, and even the residents of the dwelling houses which surround this camp admit that no nuisance has been caused to them, although they were somewhat apprehensive before the project was approved.

There are a number of camping sites which have received the approval of the Local Authority, when the provisions of Section 87 of the Blackpool Improvement Act 1925 have been complied with, and the accommodation on these sites allow for about 500 vans to be housed there.

SEA-FRONT, NORBRECK

This is the largest camp site (approx. 8 acres) in Blackpool, and has been purchased by the Local Authority so that its use as a camp will cease after 1953. At the present time this site houses about 300 caravans, but the majority of the structures are for summer occupation only.

PRESTON NEW ROAD DISTRICT

(a) This small site is only used during the summer months, and the number of vans on it never exceed ten, although campers are allowed to use tents during busy periods.

(b) There are 20 caravans on this site (approx. 1 acre) used for permanent habitation, and the campers are provided with adequate sanitary accommodation, ablution and washing facilities, and is under the personal supervision of the proprietor.

HIGHFIELD ROAD DISTRICT

This site (approx. 4 acres) houses 94 caravans on a permanent basis and the facilities have been referred to previously in this report. It is a first class site, kept in excellent condition.

SQUIRES GATE

This site (approx. 1 acre) has been approved during the year and houses about 22 caravans. It is open from Easter to the end of October and is well equipped with sanitary accommodation and ablution facilities. It is under the personal supervision of the proprietor.

STANLEY ROAD

This camp houses about 40 caravans permanently and a number of holiday-makers are allowed to use their tents on the land during the busy period in summer. The site was approved before 1939 and has adequate sanitary accommodation and ablution facilities. It is under the personal supervision of the proprietor.

COMMON EDGE ROAD

This site (approx. four acres) is partly used as a holiday camp and partly for caravans, of which about 25 remain throughout the year and an extra 40 are used permanently during the winter when they are removed from the site at Norbreck. This camp is well conducted and is under the personal supervision of the proprietor.

The department has, during the past few years, experienced considerable difficulty with a number of caravan owners who come to Blackpool for the summer, and are now allowed by the proprietors of recognised sites to place their structures on the land within their jurisdiction. It has been necessary to institute a considerable number of prosecutions, because if a laissez faire policy were adopted, the attraction of Blackpool would create a problem which would be difficult to control.

Overcrowding. Without making a complete survey of the Borough, it is quite impossible to give any exact figures regarding the incidence of overcrowding in Blackpool. When individual cases are discovered by sanitary inspectors, the facts in every instance are reported to the Related Health Services Committee for their instructions, and in those cases which are eligible for a municipal tenancy the Estates and Housing Committee are most sympathetic to this department. In the remaining instances, only flagrant breaches of overcrowding provisions of the Housing Act 1936 are made the subject of statutory notice.

Allocation of Municipal Tenancies. The Estates and Housing Department of the Corporation is responsible for the allocation of all municipal tenancies, but the closest liaison is maintained between that office and the Public Health Department concerning families living under unsuitable conditions. Detailed reports are sent in each case and it is customary for an inspection to be made of the existing conditions to ensure that no vermin is transferred to a Municipal house from a previous residence.

The Borough Treasurer has furnished the following information regarding the various types of municipal houses erected in the post-war period ending 31st December 1951.

Permanent—1 bedroom	...	...	...	...	...	128
,, 2 bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	73
,, 3 bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	1352
,, 4 bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	67
Temporary bungalows ...	...	...	...	...	...	343

487 families were rehoused during the year and as at 31st December, 1951, the number of persons on the waiting list was in the region of 5,000.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. This Act came into operation on 1st November, 1951, and a survey of the town revealed that the number of premises likely to require registration under Section 2 of the Act was eight. There were no premises affected by Section 6 and 7, which relate to the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.

Mr. T. C. Williams of Slumberland (Research) Ltd., 547, Buxton Road, Great Moor, Stockport, Cheshire, and Mr. L. W. Ogden of the same address were appointed by the Council to be the prescribed analysts under the Act.

RODENT CONTROL AND VERMIN AND INSECT DISINFESTATION

Rodent Infestation. The continuous search of premises for rodent infestation during the year entailed visits to 2,457 premises, summarized as follows :

1080 Business Premises.
1296 Dwelling Houses.
81 Open Spaces.

Of these, 61 premises were found to be infested. Orders for disinfection were received from the persons responsible in all cases, and the work was carried out by the departmental rodent control staff with satisfactory results.

The relationship between the department and the general public continues to be most cordial, and the helpful co-operation of shopkeepers and householders has been very much appreciated.

Surface Infestation. Under this heading, 813 complaints of rodent infestation were received or discovered. During the year, 143 premises were proved clear by test baiting, 778 premises, comprising 361 business premises and 417 dwellinghouses, received treatment. Premises treated included theatres, cinemas, hotels, warehouses, restaurants and cafes, and in addition, the abattoirs, tips, land, refuse disposal works, water-courses, and other premises belonging to the Local Authority received periodic inspection and treatment where necessary. During the year, the rodent control staff engaged on surface infestation made 8,158 visits.

It is interesting to note that the period under review is the first full year of work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and that certain powers formerly vested in the County Agricultural Executive Committee are now the responsibility of the Local Authority, namely, the periodic inspection of Agricultural Holdings for rodent infestation. This has entailed 295 visits to this class of property, and appropriate action has been taken where necessary.

Sewer Treatments. Approved sewer treatments were carried out during the year as follows :—

CLASS	NO. OF MANHOLES	COM- MENCED	COMPLETED	BAIT	POISON	ESTIMATED KILL
Maintenance...	608	5.3.51	2.4.51	Bread Mash	Arsenious Oxide	655
10% Test ...	604	1.5.51	28.8.51	Sausage Rusk	—	—
Maintenance...	88	11.9.51	28.9.51	Sausage Rusk	Zinc Phos.	45

A divisional inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Infestation Division, was present at each stage of the above treatments, and certified that the correct procedure was adopted. This work involved 4,170 visits to sewers.

Charges. The local authority continues to make a charge for treatment in dwelling houses, as well as business premises, and the scale of charges for dwelling houses is as follows :—

RATS

Cost of poison 2/6d. plus an additional charge of	6d. per visit	1 to 10 points.
" " " 3/9d. " "	9d. " "	11 to 15 points.
" " " 5/0d. " "	1/0d. " "	16 to 20 points.
" " " 6/3d. " "	1/3d. " "	21 to 25 points..
" " " 7/6d. " "	1/6d. " "	26 to 30 points..

MICE

Cost of poison 6d. plus an additional charge of	6d. per visit	1 to 10 points..
" " " 9d. " "	9d. " "	11 to 15 points..
" " " 1/0d. " "	1/0d. " "	16 to 20 points..
" " " 1/3d. " "	1/3d. " "	21 to 25 points..
" " " 1/6d. " "	1/6d. " "	26 to 30 points..

In respect of business premises, the full cost involved is recovered from the occupiers.

Insect Infestation. Treatment or advice has been given in 547 instances where infestation has been reported. Types of infestation and visits made are as follow :

		1st Visits	Revisits	Total Visits
Vermin, Bugs, Lice, Fleas	...	251	67	318
Cockroaches	...	130	213	343
Steam Flies	...	5	14	19
Ants	...	53	48	101
Moths	...	18	15	33
Wood Borers	...	44	54	98
Flies	...	5	2	7
Food Pests	...	4	1	5
Other Pests	...	37	34	71
		547	448	995

One disturbing feature in the above summary is the increase in the number of complaints due to the wood-boring insects (Lyctidae and Anobiidae). This increase, as compared with previous years, is as follows :—

1948	...	...	15
1949	...	...	19
1950	...	...	32
1951	...	...	44

This upward trend may be due to a variety of reasons, such as the abnormal use of second-hand wood, due to the national shortage of timber, and the ineffectiveness of old fashioned remedies such as paraffin, or a mixture of paraffin and creosote. The department has, for some time past, been experimenting with a number of preventative measures, and it has been found that a solution of mercuric chloride in methylated spirits has been uniformly successful in treating the infestations.

It cannot be over-emphasised, of course, that apart from the use of insecticides, it is advisable to detect infestation in its early stages, to ensure that the treatment be carried out both effectively and quickly.

Although the total number of visits shows an increase over the figures for the previous two years, there was a decline in the number of cases of house vermin, bugs, lice and fleas, from 400 in 1948, 352 in 1949, 286 in 1950, to 251 in the period under review. This may be attributed to :

- (a) great efficiency of the new insecticides,
- (b) higher standards of hygiene in the home,
- (c) the effect of lectures and informal talks given by members of the department to clubs, fellowships, and guilds during the year.

During 1951, the number of insects sent to the department for examination and identification totalled 204.

RODENT CONTROL SUMMARY, JANUARY- DECEMBER 1951

Month	CONTINUOUS SEARCH ANALYSIS OF PREMISES EXAMINED (SURVEY)			SURFACE INFESTATION			TYPE OF PREMISES TREATED			RODENT CONTROL OF SEWERS		
	Business Premises	Dwelling Houses	Open Spaces	No. of Visits	No. of Complaints of Infestations discovered	Premises proved clear by investigation or test baiting	No. of premises treated with poison	For rats	For mice	Business Premises	Dwelling Houses	No. of Visits
Jan.	75	155	3	233	78	21	58	19	39	24	34	678
Feb.	25	14	1	40	77	10	60	14	46	30	30	704
Mar.	24	50	1	75	66	12	54	4	50	19	35	587
April	479	415	9	903	54	3	32	3	29	16	16	486
May	63	97	3	163	62	14	50	15	35	24	26	638
June	233	106	3	342	62	14	45	15	30	13	32	604
July	15	51	7	73	68	13	57	14	43	30	27	719
Aug.	30	14	21	65	41	9	35	14	21	20	15	656
Sept.	21	261	11	293	69	8	56	22	34	29	27	678
Oct.	37	49	15	101	70	11	63	32	31	32	31	798
Nov.	23	18	4	45	91	15	71	16	55	36	35	868
Dec.	55	66	3	124	75	13	54	45	9	28	26	742
Year	1080	1296	81	2457	813	143	635	213	422	301	334	8158

N.B.—MH = Manholes. S.R. = Sausage Rusk. BMA = Bread Mash Arsenic. ZP = Zinc Phosphide. C = Complete. P = Partial.

VERMIN AND INSECT SUMMARY REPORT 1951

GENERAL FOOD SUPPLY

In all seaside resorts the supervision of the food supplies is one of the most important functions of the Public Health Department, and in Blackpool this is especially important as few places have more catering licences than this County Borough.

Meat Inspection. There are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough and all animals slaughtered for human consumption are killed at the Public Abattoirs, which have been taken over by the Ministry of Food and are used as a centralised slaughtering establishment for Blackpool and most of the district around.

During the year, at their own expense, the Ministry of Food installed electrically operated cutting saws in the abattoirs, an innovation which has accelerated the rate of killing, and is much appreciated by the slaughtermen.

The undermentioned table shows the number of animals which have been slaughtered at this establishment during the last 15 years.

Year	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1937	552	5985	2710	108	1111	67878	5528	83872
1938	569	5423	2444	67	1045	69579	4639	83766
1939	1172	5902	2994	86	957	70649	5905	87665
1940	2005	3975	2318	107	4075	73754	8316	94550
1941	2301	2433	2998	187	5034	48261	4192	65406
1942	2109	2751	3895	181	8081	62171	1144	80332
1943	2532	2299	3758	183	10444	48843	696	68755
1944	2678	2138	2435	170	9544	45627	691	63283
1945	2837	2686	4462	192	10764	40450	1258	62649
1946	4075	2391	4968	154	11671	54015	607	77881
1947	3224	2273	4093	108	7929	24932	290	42849
1948	4075	1938	3397	129	7589	36015	550	53693
1949	4610	2230	2691	204	6202	34276	711	50924
1950	5606	4127	3249	303	7257	36593	2032	59167
1951	5361	5119	3376	294	7408	34885	4248	60661

The inspection of the meat at this slaughterhouse is carried out by a full-time Abattoir Superintendent who is a fully qualified meat inspector and who is assisted by other sanitary inspectors holding appropriate qualifications as and when circumstances deem it necessary.

During the year the undermentioned quantities of meat were condemned at the Public Abattoirs in the course of inspection.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	8789	5361	7408	34855	4248
Number inspected	8789	5361	7408	34855	4248
All diseases except T.B.—					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	20	117	40	43
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4794	3886	33	1283	617
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	55.8	72.8	2.0	4.8	15.5
Tuberculosis Only—					
Whole carcass condemned	26	101	19	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1226	1419	—	—	406
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	14.4	28.3	.3	—	9.8

Cysticercus Bovis. Reference was made in the Annual Reports for 1949 and 1950 to the justification for the department continuing its intensive investigation into the presence of *Cysticercus bovis* in cattle. Multiple incisions are still made into the internal and external masseter muscles as well as the heart, and as a result of this detailed inspection, the percentage of cattle found to be infested in Blackpool is higher than at any other meat inspection centre in the country.

The following table shows the monthly details of the examinations at the Blackpool abattoir during 1951, and the graph illustrates the comparison between the three years 1949, 1950 and 1951.

In considering these figures, as well as the graph, two factors should be taken into account :

(i) The cattle are derived from varying localities, being drawn from within a comparatively close radius during some months of the year, but with a heavy influx of Scotch and Irish beasts at other times.

(ii) Marked variations occur in the proportion of young and old animals in the total kill, and it has been our experience to find that the higher percentage of infestation was in the younger animals.

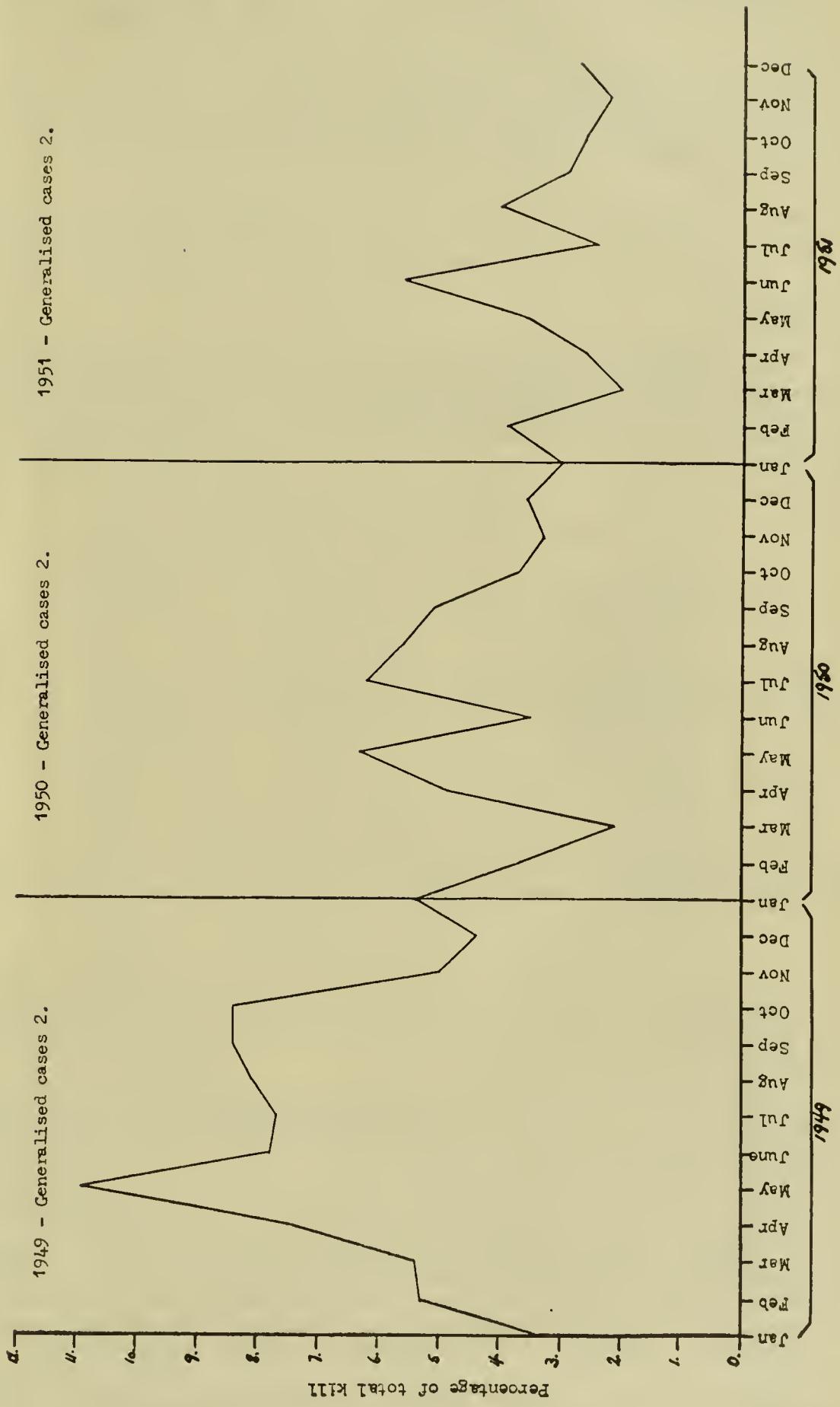
Seasonal variations in numbers, age, and geographical sources of supply do follow a fairly fixed pattern, and although within the same year the monthly percentages are not constant in their relation to a particular type of beast, the graph for a full year, i.e. 1949, can safely be compared with the years 1950 and 1951.

The figures for the three years show overall annual percentage of infestation for 1949—7·3% ; 1950—4·6% ; 1951—2·9% ; and it is the view of the department that this is some proof that there is a decline in incidence. Whether this trend will continue to virtual extinction is a matter which will be followed with considerable interest, but at its current level, and for the immediate years in the future at least, *Cysticercus bovis* must be considered as a disease of importance in meat inspection.

INCIDENCE OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT BLACKPOOL
ABATTOIRS DURING 1951

Month		Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Steers	Totals
January ...	Slaughtered ...	16	462	93	29	600
	Infested ...	—	6	10	2	18
	Per cent ...	—	1.3	10.7	6.9	3.0
February ...	Slaughtered ...	25	331	51	5	412
	Infested ...	—	9	6	1	16
	Per cent ...	—	2.7	1.2	20	3.9
March ...	Slaughtered ...	30	269	76	72	447
	Infested ...	—	2	2	5	9
	Per cent ...	—	.8	2.6	6.9	2.0
April ...	Slaughtered ...	62	264	197	284	807
	Infested ...	—	10	4	7	21
	Per cent ...	—	3.8	2.0	2.2	2.6
May ...	Slaughtered ...	50	148	174	314	686
	Infested ...	2	5	6	12	25
	Per cent ...	4.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.6
June ...	Slaughtered ...	29	160	95	24	308
	Infested ...	—	7	9	1	17
	Per cent ...	—	4.4	9.5	4.2	5.6
July ...	Slaughtered ...	24	387	255	119	785
	Infested ...	—	5	10	4	19
	Per cent ...	—	1.3	3.9	3.4	2.4
August ...	Slaughtered ...	12	676	677	726	2091
	Infested ...	1	12	35	35	83
	Per cent ...	8.3	1.8	5.2	6.1	4.0
September	Slaughtered ...	18	459	1362	884	2723
	Infested ...	—	8	41	29	78
	Per cent ...	—	1.7	3.0	3.3	2.9
October ...	Slaughtered ...	12	842	1166	388	2408
	Infested ...	—	19	35	8	62
	Per cent ...	—	2.3	3.0	2.1	2.6
November	Slaughtered ...	12	925	567	463	1967
	Infested ...	—	19	16	9	44
	Per cent ...	—	2.1	2.8	1.9	2.2
December	Slaughtered ...	4	438	406	68	916
	Infested ...	—	8	14	3	25
	Per cent ...	—	1.8	3.4	4.4	2.7
Totals ...	Slaughtered ...	294	5361	5119	3376	14150
	Infested ...	3	110	188	116	417
	Per cent ...	1.02	2.1	3.7	3.4	2.9

1949 - Generalised cases 2.



1950 - Generalised cases 2.

1951 - Generalised cases 2.

Transport of Meat. Transport of meat from the Public Slaughterhouses to the shops is carried out by a private Company, and discussions took place between representatives of this Company, employees of the firm, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector as to the most suitable type of covers for distribution vehicles to satisfy Public Health requirements, whilst paying due cognizance to loading and unloading facilities. The normal type had been a vehicle covered at the top and back with something of a permanent nature, but at the sides there were canvas sheets in the form of roller shutters, which were not hygienic and did not adequately protect the meat.

Experiments were carried out with alternative types of metal cover, and finally it was decided that metal sliding doors with ball-bearing fittings were the best which met the requirements of the trade and the department. More than half the vehicles have now been converted, and it is expected that the remainder will be completed early in 1952.

Food Inspection. During the past twelve months the undermentioned food-stuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption. This, of course, is in addition to the meat condemned at the Public Slaughterhouse. These figures show a considerable advance on the amounts condemned in years prior to 1939, an experience, no doubt common to most towns and one which has been prompted by the points system.

	Units	lbs.	Bags/Boxes	Tins/Jars
Biscuits ...	—	101	—	—
Meat (tinned)...	—	1338	—	852
Bacon and Ham ...	—	13378	—	1918
Fish (fresh) ...	—	870	9	—
Shellfish ...	—	148	7	13
Fruit (fresh) ...	395	801	12	—
Vegetables (fresh) ...	—	985	—	—
Meat (fresh) ...	—	101	2	—
Fish (tinned) ...	—	74	3	242
Fruit (tinned)...	—	4115	—	4102
Vegetables (tinned) ...	—	641	—	964
Milk (tinned) ...	—	242	48	630
Butter and Fats ...	—	152	2	—
Jams and Marmalades, etc...	—	395	—	173
Bread ...	457 loaves	891	—	—
Tea ...	—	—	—	—
Rabbits ...	60	10	—	7
Poultry ...	15	116	—	12
Cheese ...	168	21	390	2
Eggs ...	—	132	2	—
Cereals...	—	5	—	—
Sweets...	—	129	2	—
Soup ...	—	300	—	525
Miscellaneous...	—	667	120	137
	1095	25612	597	9577

Food Hygiene. Seaside resorts, like Blackpool, are particularly affected by part III of the Model Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation last year.

Representatives of the Related Health Services Committee and officials of the department met representatives of the stallholders to discuss means of implementing the byelaws, and agreement was reached on certain points in dispute. The ice cream trade had, during recent years, spent a large sum of money on improving their structures, and as far as the stalls on the sands were concerned, the department was satisfied that the vehicles from which this commodity was sold complied with part III of the Byelaws. This was not the case, however, where shellfish were exposed for sale, and it was finally agreed that all vehicles should be provided with an adequate hot water supply in insulated containers, and all shellfish which were not in closed shells, should be adequately covered by glass or perspex. Enamel bowls should also be provided by stallholders, as well as an adequate supply of clean towels.

It is hoped that the year 1952 will see the full implementation of the Model Byelaws in so far as stalls on the sands and foreshore are concerned.

Food Hygiene Lectures. After preliminary discussions between officers of the department, and representatives of the various organisations interested in the food trade, it was decided that a short course of lectures should be held at the local school of Food Technology for the benefit of persons engaged in the trades.

For the convenience of traders, both employers and employees, the course of lectures were held in the afternoons and evenings of different days in the week, and whilst the evening course was well attended, the afternoon was not so successful. It is proposed to repeat them during 1952, and in order to ensure better support a circular letter will be sent out by the department to all food traders in the town as, well as personal contact being made with the traders by the sanitary inspectors employed on this work.

Mussels from the Piers. During the year, the department was apprised of mussels being taken from the piers and sewer outlet pipes on the foreshore, although there was no suggestion that they were being used for human consumption. Apparently the collectors were taking them home for poultry feeding. Reports from the pathological laboratory received by the department indicated a heavy pollution of faecal *B. coli* in the mussels from both piers, and unquestionably the mussels were unfit for human consumption.

The Local Authority considered four alternatives:

- (1) that the Corporation should clean the piers and the piles of jetties and sewer outfalls at their own expense,
 - (2) that the Pier Companies might be approached to do this work with a contribution from the Corporation,
 - (3) that the Corporation should provide boards on two of the piers indicating to the public that the mussels should not be taken from the pier piles, and that they were quite unfit for human consumption. (N.B. Only two of the three piers are affected),
 - (4) closing of the whole of the foreshore under the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

As there was no proof that any of these mussels had been used for human consumption, it was finally decided that boards should be fixed on two of the piers, at the expense of the Local Authority, and with the consent of the Pier Companies.

Other Foods. The following is a list of shops in the Borough where food is exposed for sale:

Milk Supply. The following is a list of the milk purveyors in the borough:

The tendency in Blackpool, as in most other large towns, is for milk to be brought into town and heat treated and bottled before being supplied to the public. More than 85% of the milk supply is treated and distributed this way.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 and 1950. The following licences under the above regulations were in operation at the end of the year 1951.

(a) Producers' Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Licensed Bottling Establishments :

Tuberculin Tested. At farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accredited. At farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Accredited. Other premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(c) Dealers' Licences :

Tuberculin Tested and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	146

(d) Supplementary Licences :

Tuberculin Tested and Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Milk and Ice Cream Analysis. The following statistics relate to the chemical and bacteriological examination of milk and ice cream.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK

The number of milk samples taken was 98 of which one was below the limits prescribed by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901 and 1939.

The average composition of the milk for the year was :

Milk Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.51%
Non-Fatty Solids	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.83%
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88.66%

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

1 sample of ordinary milk was examined for the presence of Tuberclle Bacilli. The sample proved satisfactory.

GRADED MILKS

The following table shows the results of samples taken under the Milk (Special Designations (Orders, 1923 and 1936.

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	44	—	—	—
T.T. (Certified) or Tuberculin Tested	154	10	—	—
Pasteurised	51	—	78	—
Sterilised	43	—	22	—

In addition the following samples were submitted for the Phosphotase Test :

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	43	1	—	—
Pasteurised	37	14	78	—

During the year the following samples of Graded or Heat Treated milk were sent to the Pathologist for Animal Inoculation Test and the undermentioned table shows the results of his findings :

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. or Certified ...	16	—	—	—
Pasteurised	5	—	6	—
Sterilised	—	—	1	—
Ordinary	1	—	—	—

65 samples of sterilized milk were submitted for Turbidity Test and all were found satisfactory.

Ice Cream Manufacture. The number of Ice Cream premises on the register at the end of the year was 415. These premises are subject to rigid supervision by the Food Inspectors and during the year 1173 visits were made—864 to shops and stalls and 309 to factories. The report set out below was submitted to the Related Health Services Committee and shows in detail the action taken by the department in connection with the manufacture of ice cream.

Report on the Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream

INTRODUCTION

During the year, there has been a further considerable reduction in the number of manufacturers of ice cream. Seventeen who processed by the heat treatment method have ceased manufacturing, but there has been an increase of one in the number of manufacturers using the cold mix method. The nett decrease during the past twelve months was, therefore, sixteen. In the case of purveyors, the numbers show an increase of 35 over the previous year, to a record figure of 380.

The undermentioned table is illustrative of the continued trend of the industry, namely the tendency for the manufacturing part of the trade to be in fewer hands, whilst the number of retail sale points increases.

	Mix	1939	1949	1950	1951
Manufacturers	Pasteurised ...	5	—	—	—
	Boiled ...	67	—	—	—
	Heat Treated ...	—	60	49	32
	Cold ...	23	3	2	3
	Total ...	95	63	51	35
Purveyors	Pasteurised ...	134	—	—	—
	Boiled ...	85	—	—	—
	Heat Treated ...	—	363	343	376
	Cold ...	23	3	2	4
	Total ...	242	366	345	380

PREMISES

Following extensive structural alterations during former years, the premises used for the manufacture of ice cream were, on the whole, found to be of a reasonable standard, and the department had little criticism to offer against the actual buildings in which the manufacturing processes were carried out.

The details of the number of rooms used in each case are indicated in the following table.

Class of Manufacture	No. of rooms available			Total
	1	2	3	
Heat Treated Mix ...	5	23	4	32
Cold Mix ...	—	3	—	3
	5	26	4	35

The modernisation of the ice cream stalls on the sands continued during the year, and all the vehicles now comply with the new bye-laws which came into operation on the 20th July, 1950.

EQUIPMENT

The previously postponed provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947-51, relating to the siting and fitting of control thermometers came into operation on the 1st March, 1951, and detailed reports of the equipment and apparatus were submitted to the Related Health Services Committee on the 5th February, 1951, and 29th October, 1951. On the latter date, as a result of a further survey of the thirty-two premises involved, it was found that a number of them still did not comply with the Regulations, the details of the plants being as follows:

- (a) 18 complied fully with the Regulations.
- (b) 4 had recording thermometers but no fitted indicating thermometers.
- (c) 5 had fitted indicating thermometers but no recording thermometers.
- (d) 5 had neither recording nor fitted indicating thermometers.

Of the ten manufacturers who had no recording thermometers on their manufacturing plant, eight of them intimated that they had given orders for them to be supplied, but they had not yet received them.

In the remaining two cases, the owners proposed re-organising their businesses during the winter months, purchasing new plant complete with thermometers.

The Related Health Services Committee authorised the Chief Sanitary Inspector to communicate with all the delinquents, intimating that unless their apparatus complied with the Regulations when manufacturing recommenced in 1952, legal proceedings would be instituted. It was hoped, of course, that this course would not be necessary in view of the happy relations which existed between the trade and the department.

ANALYSES OF RESULTS

Samples were taken for two types of analysis, namely, chemical and bacteriological. 46 were taken for chemical, and 110 for bacteriological.

CHEMICAL

(a) During the year, the Ministry of Food issued an Order, "The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951," fixing the chemical standard for ice cream. The Order came into operation on the 1st March, 1951, from which date ice cream had to contain the minimum constituents as under :

Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5%
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10%
Milk Solids other than Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7½%

There were some variations from these standards in the cases of ice cream containing fruit, and kosher products.

The standard was not so good as the one which the Committee had been advocating for some years, but considering the raw material situation in the country, the finished product was reasonably good. The Committee will observe, from the undermentioned table (b) that a large number of samples had a fat content considerably in excess of the minimum of 5%. All manufacturers were given sufficient ingredients, based on their previous allocation, to enable them to maintain these new standards, and since they came into operation, the number of samples taken in Blackpool which have fallen below the prescribed limits, have been six. In all cases, the deficiency was in the percentage of fat, and in the case of four samples which were purchased early in the season, the Committee decided to issue warning letters to each of the offenders, and the Chairman made a Press statement warning future offenders.

There were two samples purchased later in the year, which were deficient in fat, and in each case, legal proceedings were instituted.

(b) A comparative classification of the fat content in the samples for the two years 1951 and 1950 can be seen at a glance in the following analysis.

Classification Fat Content %					1951	1950
Over 3	Below 3	...	...	...	—	2
Over 4	Below 4	...	...	...	5	8
Over 5	Below 5	...	...	...	1	5
Over 6	Below 6	...	...	...	4	13
Over 7	Below 7	...	...	...	7	4
Over 8	Below 8	...	...	...	4	5
Over 9	Below 9	...	...	...	2	6
Over 10...	Below 10	...	...	...	4	9
	...	...	...	...	19	11
Totals					46	63

The comparison again reveals a substantial improvement compared with the previous year. The average fat content of all samples was 8·4% compared with 7·4% during 1950.

(c) The average fat content of samples taken from manufacturers who occupy stalls on the foreshore was 8·1% compared with 6·64% during 1950. The details of individual samples are as follows :

Manufacturer	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
% Fat	8·9	10·2	11·7	6·7	6·6	9·4	(a) 7·2 (b) 3·9 (c) 5·4	10·9

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

The following table shows the grading of the one hundred and ten samples submitted for examination by the methylene blue test.

Class of Mix	Provisional Grade				Totals
	1	2	3	4	
Heat Treated ...	50	20	24	12	106
Cold	3	—	1	—	4
	53	20	25	12	110

66·4% were within Grades 1 & 2 as compared with 56·9% during 1950.
33·6% were within Grades 3 & 4 as compared with 43·1% during 1950.

WRAPPED ICE CREAM

Concerning 33 samples of wrapped ice cream.

21 or 63·6% were provisionally graded 1.

7 or 12·2% were provisionally graded 2.

5 or 15·2% were provisionally graded 3.

None were provisionally graded 4.

SUMMARY

(i) Concentration of ice cream manufacture continued during the year, although an expansion in the number of sales points was noted.

(ii) Attention has been directed towards the full implementation of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, relating to thermometry.

(iii) The introduction of minimum chemical standards has resulted in an improvement in quality, ensuring a satisfactory product commensurate with current supply conditions.

(iv) The results of the bacteriological examinations indicate improvements in the hygiene of manufacturing, handling, and sale of ice cream within the Borough.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. During the year, 420 samples were taken under the Act and the results received from the Public Analyst are detailed below :

Informal Samples		Nature of Sample	Formal Samples	
Taken	Not Genuine		Taken	Not Genuine
1	—	Artificial Cream...	—	—
—	—	Baking Powder ...	7	—
—	—	Beef ...	1	—
—	—	Bev. ...	1	—
—	—	Bicarbonate of Soda ...	6	—
—	—	Bisto ...	1	—
2	—	Black Puddings...	—	—
—	—	Blanc Mange Powder ...	5	—
—	—	Brawn ...	1	—
—	—	Bread ...	—	—
—	—	Bread Crumbs ...	—	—
—	—	Broth ...	—	—
—	—	Butter ...	23	—
—	—	Cake Mixture ...	—	—
—	—	Cakeoma...	—	—
—	—	Candied Peel ...	—	—
—	—	Caraway Seeds ...	2	—
—	—	Cheesc ...	—	—
—	—	Cheesc Spredad ...	4	2
—	—	Cherries ...	1	—
—	—	Christmas Pudding ...	—	—
—	—	Cinnamon ...	1	—
—	—	Cocoa ...	1	—
—	—	Coconut ...	3	—
—	—	Coffee ...	18	—
—	—	Coffee and Chicory Essence ...	—	—
—	—	Cooking Fat ...	23	—
—	—	Cooking Oil ...	1	—
—	—	Cornflour...	—	—
—	—	Cream ...	1	—
—	—	Creamola...	—	—
—	—	Cream of Tartar ...	3	—
—	—	Curry Powder ...	—	—
—	—	Custard Powder...	—	—
—	—	Cut Peel ...	—	—
—	—	Dandelion and Burdock ...	—	—
—	—	Dessert Powder...	—	—
—	—	Dog Meat ...	—	—
—	—	Dried Thyme ...	—	—
—	—	Farinoca...	—	—
—	—	Fish Paste ...	—	—
—	—	Flavouring ...	—	—
—	—	Gelatinc ...	—	—
—	—	Ginger ...	—	—
—	—	Ginger Wine ...	—	—
—	—	Grapefruit Squash ...	—	—
—	—	Ground Ginger ...	—	—
—	—	Ground Almonds ...	—	—
—	—	Ground Nutmeg ...	—	—
—	—	Ham ...	—	—
—	—	Ice Cream ...	33	6
—	—	Ice Cream Cone...	—	—
—	—	Ice Coconut ...	—	—
—	—	Jelly ...	2	—
—	—	Jelly Crystals ...	4	—
—	—	Lemonade Crystals ...	—	—
—	—	Lemonade Tablets ...	1	—
—	—	Lemon Squash ...	1	—
—	—	Margarinc ...	24	—
—	—	Meat Paste ...	3	—
—	—	Milk ...	98	—
—	—	Milk (Dried) ...	—	—
—	—	Mincemeat ...	1	—
—	—	Mussels ...	1	—
—	—	Nescafe ...	—	—
—	—	Non-brewed Condiment ...	—	—
—	—	Orange Squash ...	—	—
—	—	Pastry Mix ...	—	—
—	—	Pepper ...	6	—
—	—	Pepper Flavoured Compound ...	3	—
—	—	Potted Meat ...	—	—
—	—	Potted Shrimps ...	—	—
—	—	Pudding Mixture ...	3	—
—	—	Rabbit Mould ...	—	—
—	—	Rice ...	—	—
—	—	Rose Leaves ...	—	—
—	—	Sago ...	—	—
—	—	Salad Cream ...	—	—
—	—	Sauce ...	2	—
—	—	Sausage ...	5	—
—	—	Scone Mixture ...	—	—
—	—	Self-Raising Flour ...	4	—
—	—	Shortbread ...	—	—
—	—	Shredded Wheat ...	—	—
—	—	Shrimps ...	1	—
—	—	Sponge Mixture...	2	—
—	—	Steak ...	—	—
—	—	Strawberries in Syrup ...	—	—
—	—	Sweets ...	—	—
—	—	Tomato Soup ...	—	—
—	—	Vinegar ...	15	—
—	—	Yoghourt ...	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
14	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
66	5	—	354	13

The action taken by the department in respect of certain samples was as follows :—

Pork Sausage. Formal Sample No. 331. The sample, deficient of 21% of its meat (previously reported in the 4th Quarter of 1950). The case concerning this contravention of Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was heard at Blackpool Police Court on the 23rd February, 1951, and the defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £1.

Beef Sausage. Informal Sample No. 22. The sample was deficient of 10% of its meat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and referred to the Ministry of Food for action.

Beef Sausage. Informal Sample No. 23. The sample was deficient of 12% of its meat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and referred to the Ministry of Food for action.

Beef Sausage. Formal Sample No. 52. The sample was deficient of 4% of its meat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was authorised to send a warning letter to the retailer.

Cheese Spread. Formal Sample No. 73. The sample contained 9% excess water. No action taken.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 98. The sample was deficient of 24% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th June, 1951. The Town Clerk was authorised to send a warning letter to the offender.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 99. The Sample was deficient of 26% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th June, 1951. The Town Clerk was authorised to send a warning letter to the offender.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 100. The Sample was deficient of 26% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th June, 1951. The Town Clerk was authorised to send a warning letter to the offender.

Tomato Soup. Informal Sample No. 145. The sample was decomposed. The remaining decomposed tins in this consignment were surrendered for destruction.

Tomato Soup. Informal Sample No. 147. The sample contained three grains of tin per lb. and was decomposed. The remaining decomposed tins in this consignment were surrendered for destruction and the others passed as fit for sale.

Bread. Informal Sample No. 153. The sample was contaminated with a tuft of rat hair. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th June, 1951, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector was authorised to communicate with all bakers in the Borough, suggesting that all flour should be sieved before use, as a measure to minimise risk of such contamination in the future.

Potted Meat. Formal Sample No. 162. The sample was of brawn. No action taken as the product was merely wrongly labelled.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 415. The sample was deficient of 30% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th June, 1951. The Town Clerk was authorised to send a warning letter to the offender.

Lemonade Tablets. Formal Sample No. 223. The sample contained a small live beetle. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 3rd September, 1951. The remainder of the stock in the shop was examined, but no cause for complaint could be found. No further action was taken.

Milk. Formal Sample No. 238. The sample was deficient of 10% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 3rd September, 1951, and the matter was referred to the County Medical Officer of Health, as the farm at which the milk was produced is in the County area.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 250. The sample was deficient of 22% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 3rd September, 1951, and the Town Clerk was authorised to institute legal proceedings. The case was heard at Blackpool Police Court on the 26th October, 1951, and the defendant was fined £1 and 12/6d. costs.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 288. The sample was deficient of 12% of its fat. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 1st October, 1951, and the Town Clerk was authorised to institute legal proceedings.

Cheese Spread. Formal Sample No. 298. The sample contained 9% excess water. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 1st October, 1951. As the sample was imported produce by the Ministry of Food, the matter was referred to that department.

Ice Cream. Formal Sample No. 288. (Report continued from 3rd Quarter). Sample deficient of 12% of its fat. The case was heard at Blackpool Police Court on 29th November, 1951, and the defendant was fined £1.

Ginger Wine. Formal Sample No. 368. The sample was of Non-Alcoholic Ginger Wine with a misleading label. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. No action was taken on the suggestion of the Ministry of Food. (Letter dated 20th December, 1951).

PROSECUTIONS DURING 1951

MONTH	SECTION	CONTRAVICTION
February	Section 3 Food and Drugs Act, 1938.	Defendants fined £1. Pork sausage deficient of 21 per cent of meat.
March	Section 87 Blackpool Improvement Act, 1925 (as amended)	Defendant fined 10/-. Caravan placed on land without consent of Local Authority.
June	" " "	One defendant fine £1. One defendant given conditional discharge on payment of costs of 4/-.
July	Factories Act, 1937, Section 7.	Conditional discharge on payment of 4/- costs.
July	Factories Act, 1937, Section 7.	Defendants fined £12, i.e., £1 each day for 12 days.
October	Section 87 of the Blackpool Improvement Act, 1925 (as amended)	Two defendants each fined 5/-.
October	Food Standards (General Provisions) Order, 1944.	Defendant fined £1 with costs of 12/6 for Analyst's fee. Ice cream deficient of 22 per cent of its fat.
October	Bye-laws made under Section 82 Public Health Act, 1936.	Defendants fined £1. Removal of noxious matter through the streets.
November	Defence Regulations (56a) Building Licensing.	Defendant fined £50. Three defendants each fined £25. Work carried out without having received building licence.
November	Section 87 Blackpool Improvement Act, 1925 (as amended).	Defendant fined 2/6. Structure placed on land without consent of Local Authority.
November	" " "	Defendant fined 10/-. Structure placed on land without consent of Local Authority.
November	Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1951, and Food Standards (General Provisions) Order, 1944.	Defendant fined £1. Ice cream deficient of 12 per cent of its fat.

Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926. During the year, 12 samples were taken under the Act and the results received from the Public Analyst are detailed below:

Informal Samples		Nature of Sample	Formal Samples	
Taken	Not Genuine		Taken	Not Genuine
1	—	Treacle Meal ...	...	...
1	—	Intensive Layers Mash	...	—
1	—	Calf Niblets ...	...	—
1	—	National Layers Meal	...	—
2	—	National Pig Meal	...	—
1	—	Fine Offal (Thirds)	...	—
1	—	Tomato Fertiliser	...	—
1	—	Soluble Blood Manure	...	—
1	—	Fertiliser	...	—
1	—	Layers Mash No. 1A	...	—
1	—	Fine Wheatfeed	...	—
12	—		—	—

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. During the year, 12 samples were taken under the Act and the results received from the Public Analyst are detailed below:

Informal Samples		Nature of Sample	Formal Samples	
Taken	Not Genuine		Taken	Not Genuine
I	—	Insomnia Mixture	—	—
I	—	Cystitis Mixture	—	—
I	—	Nasal Catarrh Mixture ...	—	—
I	—	Mixture for Bronchial Cough ...	—	—
I	—	Mixture for Diarrhoea ...	—	—
I	—	Adults Nerve Tonic ...	—	—
I	—	Blood Purifier ...	—	—
I	—	Diarrhoea Mixture ...	—	—
I	—	Bismuth and Soda Mixture ...	—	—
I	—	One day Cold Cure ...	—	—
I	—	All Fours Chest and Lung Mixture	—	—
I	—	Cherry Bark Cough Mixture ...	—	—
12	—		—	—

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926. During the period 1939-45, the Ministry of Food exercised certain powers which had the effect of suspending the provisions of various Merchandise Marks Orders as far as they related to eggs, bacon, butter, dried fruit, meat and poultry. The suspension of these Orders for all practical purposes came to an end in 1951, and as a result of a circular from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries dated 8th March, 1951, all trade organisations in the town were written to by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and notices inserted in the local press, publicising the effect of the circular. At the same time, routine visits were made to all food traders during the year. On the whole, it is fair to say that the labelling of the food under the Act was complied with.

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